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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1839)

Name of Candidate	Komal Punia		
Medium Eng./Hindi	English	Registration Number	1026090
Center	Online	Date	25/02/23

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
2	10	
3	10	
4	10	
5	10	
6	10	
7	10	
8	10	
9	10	
10	10	
11	15	
12	15	
13	15	
14	15	
15	15	
16	15	
17	15	
18	15	
19	15	
20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न–पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH & HINDI**
   इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
   सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
   प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
   प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न–सह–उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
   प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

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EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

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(इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

1. An independent umbrella body that brings the various central investigative agencies under one roof holds the key to shoring up their credibility. Discuss. (150 words) 10

एक स्वतंत्र अम्ब्रेला निकाय जो विभिन्न केंद्रीय जांच एजेंसियों को एक छत के नीचे लाता हो, उनकी विश्वसनीयता को बढ़ाने की कुंजी है। विवेचना कीजिए।

To enhance coordination and bring in effective regulation between various central investigative agencies eg CBI, NIA, CVC etc, there is a need for an independent umbrella body.

Need of umbrella body

1. bring in transparency and accountability.
2. provide effective communication
3. reduce duplication of efforts
4. better coordination in crisis management.
5. Non-traditional threats - cybercrime, drug trafficking, use of social media - need multipronged approach

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(6) effective utilisation of manpower and resources.

e.g CVC doesn't have its own investigating staff.

(7) Capacity building and use of modern tech.

Way ahead

(1) Statutory umbrella body through legislation passed in parliament.

(2) Autonomy and adequate transparency.

(3) Uniformity of provisions is needed – CBI recently need 'general consent' or 'case by case consent' – hampers functioning.

Umbrella body will reduce multiplicity of efforts and enhance efficiency.

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2. Discuss the significance of the Doctrines of Pith and Substance and Colourable Legislation with respect to Centre-state relations in India. (150 words) 10

भारत में केंद्र-राज्य संबंधों के संदर्भ में तत्व एवं सार के सिद्धांत और छद्म (आभासी) विधायन के सिद्धांत के महत्व की विवेचना कीजिए।

Supreme Court has come up with various principles, doctrines for intrepreting centre-state relations.

Doctrine of pith and Substance : Significance

involves intrepreting the ambit of entries in Schedule VII lists.

① If actual substance or intent falls in list - then that entry is saved from overreach.

② Centre's legislations overreach on state subjects is protected.

③ federalism is basic structure -
↳ doctrine of pith and substance - an example of Cooperative federalism

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Doctrine of Colourable legislation

means legislation can't circumvent directly or indirectly provisions of Constitution —

based on maxim, "what can't be done directly, can't be done indirectly."

- ↳ prevent provisions against interests of states.
- ↳ checks on colourable legislations
- ↳ federal interests protected.
- ↳ shows states as autonomous, independent identities.
- ↳ regional demands can't be overlooked.
- ↳ checks hasty legislation.

Supreme Court has made use of above doctrines to establish harmony between centre and states.

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3. Do you agree with the view that there should be simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and the State Legislative Assemblies in India? Discuss with suitable arguments. **(150 words) 10**
क्या आप इस विचार से सहमत हैं कि भारत में लोक सभा और राज्य विधान सभाओं के निर्वाचन एक साथ होने चाहिए? उपयुक्त तर्कों के साथ चर्चा कीजिए।

Law Commission, Election Commission and various other bodies have recommended to hold simultaneous election as a step towards - 'One nation, one election.'

Arguments for

① synchronised timings of Elections - reduce wastage of resources.

② reduction in election expenditure and corruption, black money.

③ will increase electoral participation currently 67%.

④ Election Commission will ensure smooth conduct of elections.

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However, last time simultaneous elections held in 1967. There are certain challenges in ensuring this -

1. agreement between parties
2. deployment of election machinery and security forces
3. synchronising timings
   ↓ lead to
   bypolls.
4. challenge of hung assembly in certain states.

Way ahead

1. phase wise synchronisation can be done.
2. Instead of one, there can be two or three periods to organise elections.

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4. Discuss the need for codification of parliamentary privileges in India, in light of the uncertainty and ambiguity around them. (150 words) 10
भारत में संसदीय विशेषाधिकारों के बारे में अनिश्चितता और अस्पष्टता के आलोक में, उनके संहिताकरण की आवश्यकता पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Parliamentary privileges are mentioned in Art 105 of Indian Constitution.

They are of two types

Individual MP privileges
↳ freedom of speech in house
↳ immunity against words said in parliament.

Parliament's privileges
↳ Art 122, 212 - Courts debarred from interfering with Parliament.

However, with increasing instances of breach of privileges and ambiguity around them — there is need for 'Code of privileges' —
e.g. recent disruption during PM's speech.

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Codification will ensure

↳ ① clarity of punishment

↳ ② Speaker's biasness and error will be removed.

↳ ③ discipline, debate and discussion instead of disruption.

↳ ④ Rules Committee and Committe of Ethics can aid framing of code and implementation.

Way ahead

① ARC-II recommended - 'Code of Conduct' for MPs.

② 83rd All India Presiding officer's conference - also demanded for code to govern behaviour.

A code on lines of 'Nolan Committee' will strengthen democracy.

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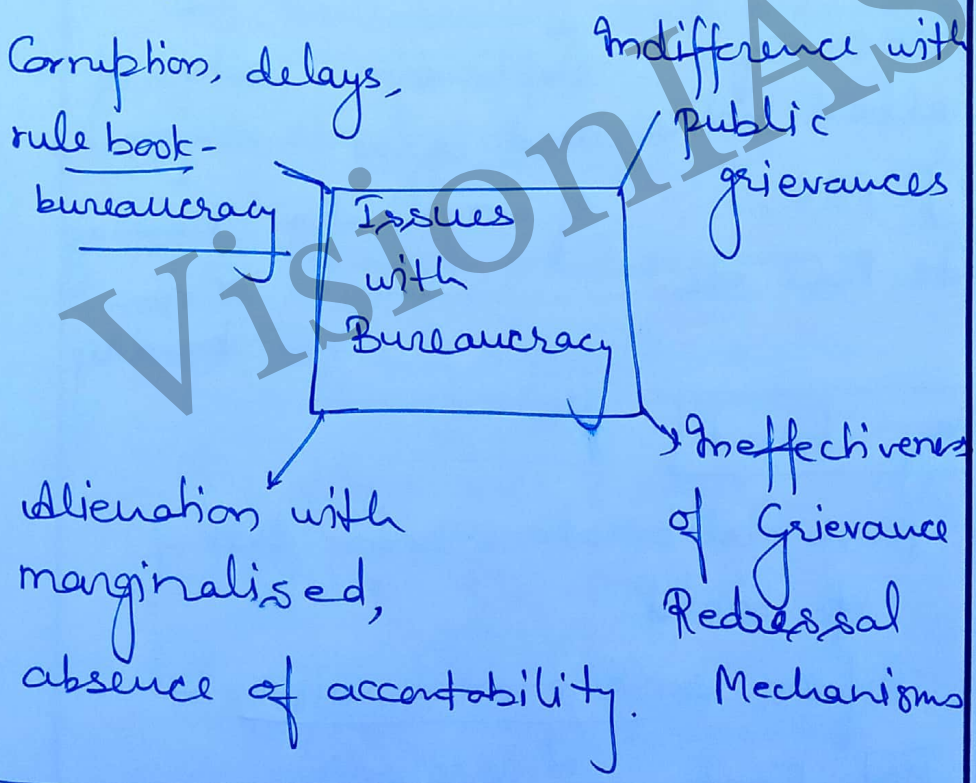
5. While the Civil Services Board can be a step forward in making the Indian bureaucracy more effective, it has its own issues which need to be addressed. Analyse. **(150 words) 10**

हालांकि, सिविल सेवा बोर्ड भारतीय नौकरशाही को और अधिक प्रभावी बनाने की दिशा में एक अग्रणी कदम हो सकता है, लेकिन इसके अपने मुद्दे हैं जिन्हें हल करने की आवश्यकता है। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Indian bureaucracy is ailing with many issues such as red tapism, corruption etc. which calls for setting up of 'Civil Services Board'.



Civil Service Board will usher in accountability, transparency.

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↳ implementation of 'Code of Conduct'.
↳ grievance redressal.
↳ streamline recruitment, training and periodic performance evaluation.

Challenges with Board

- existence of parallel bodies
  e.g. UPSC, State PSCs etc.
- Duplication and issue of coordination
- nature of recommendation → binding or non-binding

Way ahead

① More deliberations before setting up board.
② Reform existing mechanisms – eg Karmayogi (iGOT)

'Civil Services Board' should precede with internal reformation.

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6. Highlight the potential of India Digital Ecosystem Architecture (IndEA) 2.0 in transforming the ecosystem of service delivery in India. **(150 words) 10**
भारत में सेवा वितरण के पारितंत्र को रूपांतरित करने में इंडिया डिजिटल इकोसिस्टम आर्किटेक्चर (IndEA) 2.0 की क्षमता पर प्रकाश डालिए।

IndEA 2.0 ushered in good governance by digitising service delivery as a step towards e-governance.

Potential of IndEA 2.0

- ① transparency, and accountability.
- ② speedy disposal.
- ③ feedback mechanisms - digitally suggestions
- ④ aligns with NeGP, PRAGATI, Meghraj.
- ⑤ Single window Grievance redressal.
- ⑥ reduce red tapism and corruption.

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Challenges

1. data privacy ~~and~~ in absence of legislation like Personal Data Protection Bill.
2. Digital Illiteracy – 90% Indians
3. Exclusion of poor and marginalised
4. Creation of digital inequality.

Way ahead

1. IndEA 2.0 supplimented with digital literacy campaigns.
2. Integration of far flung areas with welfarist governance
3. IndEA 2.0. will usher in India of IR 4.0 (Industrial Revolution 4.0) with informed and better served citizenry to fulfill vibrant democracy

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7. What is Civil Registration System? Highlight its importance and discuss the measures taken by the government to bring about improvements in it. **(150 words) 10**

नागरिक पंजीकरण प्रणाली क्या है? इसके महत्व पर प्रकाश डालिए और इसमें सुधार करने के लिए सरकार द्वारा किए गए उपायों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Civil Registration System (CRS) is registration of people of India. It is ~~like~~ a step towards formalisation.

Importance

1. Organised and formalisation - currently 90% informal workforce
2. helps in NPR, CAA and other data formulation.
3. aids evidence based policy
4. helps targeting of beneficiaries.

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Government has undertaken several steps to improve it.

Measures taken

1. digitisation of registration process
2. Adhar linkage for better results.
3. Expanded reach - to remove exclusion error.
4. Capacity building of staff

Civil Registration System is a democratic exercise - aimed for evidence based policy making.

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8. The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and Their Rehabilitation Act, 2013, provides an effective mechanism for empowerment of the intended beneficiaries in the society. Critically discuss. **(150 words) 10**

हाथ से मैला उठाने वाले कर्मियों के नियोजन का प्रतिषेध एवं उनका पुनर्वास अधिनियम, 2013 समाज में इच्छित लाभार्थियों के सशक्तीकरण के लिए एक प्रभावी तंत्र प्रदान करता है। समालोचनात्मक चर्चा कीजिए।

The inhumane working conditions of manual scavangers catalysed the need of 2013 Act for their rehabilitation.

2013 Act benefits

1. rescue and rehabilitation of manual scavangers.
2. Mechanising desludging process.
3. prohibiting discrimination as most of scavangers from lower cast.
4. Victim compensation in case of damages.
5. brings in societal consciousness with respect to Human Rights.

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However the Act has been ineffective

↳ ① Ineffectiveness in providing alternate livlihood options.

↳ ② Rehabilitation efforts inadequate.

↳ ③ Continued discrimination

↳ ④ Large section of population still not benefitted.

Multipronged approach of rehabilitation, alternate livlihood and adequate social security measures are needed.

Budget 2023-24 ~~ain~~ announced mechanisation of desludging process.

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9. Discuss the reforms that must be undertaken to strengthen the World Trade Organisation in order to address the vulnerabilities in the present global trading system. **(150 words) 10**
वर्तमान वैश्विक व्यापार प्रणाली में विद्यमान कमियों को दूर करने के लिए विश्व व्यापार संगठन को सुदृढ़ करने हेतु उस पर किए जाने वाले सुधारों की विवेचना कीजिए।

World Trade Organisation (WTO) is the multilateral forum for trade negotiations and ensuring free trade across globe.

Vulnerabilities in present global trading System

- Tariff and Non-tariff Barriers
- Trade Wars — e.g. US-China
- Unfair trade practices — e.g. Circumventing Rules of Origin
- absence of effective dispute resolution — e.g. WTO Appellate-Body - Ineffective.
- Uncertainities in global arena - e.g. Russia-Ukraine

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Reforms needed

① decisions influenced by developed economies – need for recognition of ~~de~~ challenges and issues of developing economies.

eg food security – Issue over MSP.

② Need for effective dispute resolution

e.g. Developed nations – not reducing amber-box subsidies

③ Voice of weaker nations to be given weightage.

④ Many issues unresolved – need speedy resolution.

Reform of WTO is needed to ensure its own existence and reduce global vulnerabilities – otherwise bilateral agreements will supersede it.

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10. State the significance of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Also, discuss the need for a legally binding Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) agreement.
(150 words) 10

संयुक्त राष्ट्र समुद्री कानून संधि (UNCLOS) के महत्व का उल्लेख कीजिए। साथ ही, कानूनी रूप से बाध्यकारी राष्ट्रीय अधिकार से परे क्षेत्रों की समुद्री जैव विविधता (BBNJ) समझौते की आवश्यकता पर चर्चा कीजिए।

UNCLOS aims to ensure free access of seas to all nations for peaceful and equitable navigation.

Significance

- prevent Anti-Acess and Area Denial
- Sustainable usage of marine resources
- Sharing of white Shipping Information
- free and open oceans for navigation
- Sustainable and blue Economy.

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Need for legally Binding BBNJ

- ① protection of marine ecosystem.
- ② protect endangered animals and flora.
  - eg Sounds disturb deep sea animals and communication
- ③ Around 90% ocean lies beyond national jurisdiction
- ④ Uniform and global efforts for protection of biodiversity of this huge area.

legally binding BBNJ would be a step towards achieving SDG of 'life below waters'.

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11. Critically assess the role played by the National Human Rights Commission as a watchdog of human rights violations in India. **(250 words) 15**
भारत में मानवाधिकारों के उल्लंघन के प्रहरी के रूप में राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग द्वारा निभाई गई भूमिका का समालोचनात्मक मूल्यांकन कीजिए।

NHRC is a statutory body established by Human Rights Act 1992 as a watchdog of Human Rights in India.

functions of NHRC

- Inquiry human rights violations suggesting punishment
- address complaints against human rights violation
- annual report to Parliament
- quasi-judicial body
- have powers of civil court to examine on oath.

Assessment of role played by NHRC in protection of human rights

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in India –

① Spread awareness regarding human rights.

② Campaigns against sexual exploitation

③ Role of NHRC visible in POSH guidelines, Ayodhya Case, recent death of Dalit student in IIT Bombay.

However, ~~there~~ ineffecieness can be seen in functioning due to –

↳ ① absence of own staff for inquiring violations.

↳ ② non-binding nature of recommendation

↳ ③ Can't examine violations

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1 year before.

↳ (4) reports not tabled timely in parliament.

↳ (5) ineffectiveness in dealing cybercrimes, marital rapes etc.

Way ahead

(1) Own staff for inquiry - need to be provided.

(2) Constitutional status can be accorded.

(3) Ahmadi Committee recommended to do away with '1 year' period condition.

According constitutional status will ensure smooth functioning of NHRC - fulfilling democratic mandate.

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12. Discuss how the integration of information and communications technology (ICT) in the dispute resolution processes will help in overcoming the challenges associated with the functioning of courts and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) forums. **(250 words) 15**

विवेचना कीजिए कि विवाद समाधान प्रक्रियाओं में सूचना और संचार प्रौद्योगिकी (ICT) का एकीकरण अदालतों एवं वैकल्पिक विवाद समाधान (ADR) मंचों के कामकाज से जुड़ी चुनौतियों का समाधान करने में किस प्रकार सहायता करेगा।

Digitisation of courts and ADRs, in wake of Industrial Revolution 4.0, will usher speedy dispensation of justice.

Challenges associated with Courts and ADRs

- inordinate delays
- Costly justice delivery
- lack of judges [21:1000]
- Vacancies in judiciary – ~~4.3 crore~~
- Pendency of Cases – 4.3 crore pending

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ICT as solution to above challenges

① Speedy disposal -

online prodedure → availability of evidences and documents online → case in investigation → Speedy judgement writing.

② Increase Accessibility to far flung areas — currently only 1 Supreme Court - difficult for people across geographies to come Delhi.

↳ digitisation will enhance accessibility.

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↳ ③ Reduce cost - will make justice more affordable.

↳ ④ Schemes like e-Court Mission, Justis app, - aiding case listing and judicial research.

↳ ⑤ SUPACE portal - will enhance quick documents delivery.

↳ ⑥ Will reduce pendency of cases.

↳ ⑦ Unobstructed justice dispensation even during Covid.

Thus, there is a need of speedy integration of ICT with courts and ADRs. for this a Special Purpose Vehical - can be constituted to aid digital infrastructure.

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13. Despite various provisions concerning disqualification of legislators under The Representation of The People Act, 1951, the issue of criminalization of politics is still unresolved to a large extent in India. Discuss.

(250 words) 15

लोक प्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम, 1951 के तहत विधायकों की निरर्हता से संबंधित विभिन्न प्रावधानों के बावजूद, भारत में राजनीति के अपराधीकरण का मुद्दा अभी भी काफी हद तक अनसुलझा है। विवेचना कीजिए।

RPA, 1951 provides elaborate provisions for disqualification of legislators.

RPA provisions related to disqualifica

① Section 8 – disqualification if
↳ promoting enmity
↳ social crimes like Sati

② Section 8A – Corrupt practices – defined under section 123 –
bribery, corruption
false information on affadavit

③ Section 9, 10, 11, 12 – deals with disqualification on holding

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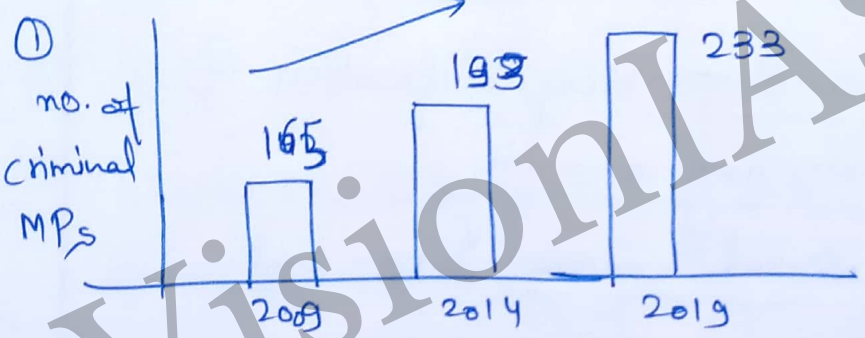
shares in company where government is >25% stakeholder, etc.

↳ trade of goods and services etc.

Despite above provisions, criminals in politics continue to ail democracy.

Criminalisation of Politics extent

① 

'A growth not to be proud of'

② First Past the Post (FPTP) system favours popular candidate.

③ Loopholes of RPA provisions — as escape route for disqualificat^n

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e.g. Earlier Section 8(4) was misused

Lily Thomas Case 2013 - declared it unconstitutional.

Way ahead

1. Internal Party democracy - Election Commission Recommendations.
2. Informed electorate - awareness
3. campaigns e.g. Kerala organising Constitutional literacy campaigns.
4. Need of simplification of disqualification under Corrupt practices [RPA 1951]

The idea of 'substantive democracy' can only be fulfilled by eliminating criminals from politics - lest India will reduce to 'Psephocracy'.

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14. It is time for reforms, which recognise that urban local bodies (ULBs) need permanent, buoyant revenue sources to match the growing demands of an increasing urban population. Discuss. **(250 words) 15**

यह सुधारों का समय है जो यह पहचान करता है कि शहरी स्थानीय निकायों (ULBs) को बढ़ती शहरी आबादी की बढ़ती मांगों को पूरा करने के लिए स्थायी, वृद्धिशील राजस्व स्रोतों की आवश्यकता है। विवेचना कीजिए।

Urban population is projected to increase to 50% in next decade. Rising urban population demands robust ULBs for better urban planning.

Current status of ULBs

① Revenue deficit due to dependency on state government.

② less avenues for own revenue -

- Property tax - Lowest (OECD report)
- Professional tax limit (2500 ₹)
- GST subsumed many taxes.

③ Reluctance in levying taxes

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(4) Absence of Capital market for loan.

(5) Budget passage need State government recommendation.

(6) Challenge of funds, functions and functionaries.

So there is urgent need for alternal sources of revenue —

(1) Municipal Bonds [RBI report]
↳ to raise loans for urban development.

(2) China model of financial agency for municipal bodies — providing loans especially to them.

(3) Removing limit on professional tax.

(4) New taxes like — Carbon tax — for sustainable development and revenue generation.

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(5) making recommendation of State finance Commissions binding on State government → will ensure better devolution.

Rising urban populace need sustainable urban planning — Municipalities have crucial role to play.

A permanent, buoyant revenue source will ensure independence achieving ~~SGD~~ SDGs of sustainable urban spaces.

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15. The role of the civil society organisations (CSOs) in India is changing in contemporary times and has become increasingly more complex. Discuss. **(250 words) 15**

समकालीन समय में भारत में नागरिक समाज संगठनों (CSOs) की भूमिका बदल रही है और निरंतर अधिक जटिल होती जा रही है। चर्चा कीजिए।

CSOs are voluntarily formed organisations to work for public welfare - fulfilling the mandate of democracy.

Traditional role of CSOs

① Pre-Independence -

- social reforms - voice against evils of sati, widow remariage, etc.
- educating and politically empowering people. -
- mobilising women - e.g. Bharat stree Mahamandal.

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↳ Some examples – Brahmo Samaj, Arya Samaj, SEWA etc.

② Post-Independence role

↳ Political mobilisation –

e.g. passing of Domestic Voilence Act.

↳ Environmental conservation –

e.g. Vandana Shiva (Eco-faminism)

↳ faminism and awareness of rights – BMMA,

Contempory times : more complex issues

① Temple entry – Sabrimala Case.

② Gender equality [SDG-5]

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③ Cosmopolitanism - voice for rights on global platforms -

④ acting as pressure groups - e.g. [Kisan movement and farm bills]

⑤ Service providers - Akshaypatra

⑥ Advocacy - PUCL, ADR, RTI Act

⑦ Reseach - policy formulation aid - e.g. Pratham's ASER

With decreasing role of government and expanding neo-libreal market model - role of NGO has become increasingly complex.

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16. Though the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) aims to address the inequity in development in India, there are a number of issues which plague the scheme. Discuss. **(250 words) 15**

हालांकि संसद सदस्य स्थानीय क्षेत्र विकास योजना (एमपीएलएडीएस) का उद्देश्य भारत में विकास में असमता से निपटना है, लेकिन ऐसे कई मुद्दे हैं जो इस योजना को प्रभावित करते हैं। विवेचना कीजिए।

MPLADS scheme suspended past few years has been controversial in achieving its objectives.

MPLADS objectives

1. funds to MPs for local area development – reduce inequity
2. local MPs knows – local constraints and local resources thus – aiding development.
3. funds lapsable ⇒ utilisation in same year to ensure implementation.

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Issues with scheme

1. Corruption and non-transparent utilisation of funds.
2. Ineffective spending due to lapsable nature.
3. Loss of public money due to inefficiencies.
4. MPs spending fund for populist measures.
5. chanced the culture of freebies

ARC-II recommended to discontinue MPLADS - Instead schemes like Sansad Gram - adopting villages for development.

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Way ahead

1. transparency in spending
2. digitisation of spent funds
3. Social Audit by NGOs
4. reducing the funds allocated.

MPLADS has lost its significance given its suspension. As recommended by ARC-II, either it can be discontinued or above recommendations can be followed.

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17. Highlighting the factors responsible for the growth of EdTech sector in India in recent times, discuss its benefits. Also, state the concerns associated with it. **(250 words) 15**

हाल के दिनों में भारत में एडटेक क्षेत्रक के विकास के लिए उत्तरदायी कारकों पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, इसके लाभों पर चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, इससे जुड़ी चिंताओं का भी उल्लेख कीजिए।

The onset of Industrial Revolution 4.0. has resulted in growth of EdTech sector worldwide. This especially became significant in aftermath of Covid-19 pandemic.

factors responsible for growth

- rising demand of coaching centres.
- Competitive exam preparations
- Edtech facilitated affordable education
- need for travel, accomodation circumvented
- rising internet connections and digital literacy.

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Benefits of EdTech.

① Increased accessibility to far flunged areas - hitherto unreached can avail benefits.

② Enhanced affordability - no need for costly accomodation.

③ Provided avenues for blended learning.

④ Real time updated pedagogy

⑤ emergence of AI, e.g. chatgpt - helping students learn codes.

However there are various Concerns associated with it -

① Increased inequality - Digital illetracy aids this

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② Commodification of education

③ Mental health issues aggravated
↳ increased screen time.

④ Privacy challenges - data collection might be misused.

⑤ Spread of wrong/false facts - degraded quality of education.

⑥ Increased vulnerability towards cyberattacks.

There is need to create robust infrastructure →
- reduce digital illiteracy
- cyber secure environment
- A national policy on edtech sector is need of hour.

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18. Bring out the role of Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) workers in delivering health services in rural India. Also, suggest the measures that can be taken to overcome the challenges faced by them. **(250 words) 15**

ग्रामीण भारत में स्वास्थ्य सेवाएं प्रदान करने में मान्यता प्राप्त सामाजिक स्वास्थ्य कार्यकर्ता (आशा) की भूमिका पर प्रकाश डालिए। साथ ही, उनके द्वारा सामना की जाने वाली चुनौतियों को दूर करने के उपाय भी सुझाइए।

ASHA play crucial role in expanding reach of Primary Health Care (PHC) in India.

Role of ASHA

① Maternal and childcare –
↳ implementation of schemes like ICDS, POSHAN2.0 etc
↳ Vaccine coverage under Indradhanush program.

② Institutional deliveries –
87% (NFHS-5) – progressive step.

③ Reproductive education to women

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(4) Crucial role played during Covid vaccination drive.

(5) role in tackling Communicable Diseases.

Challenges faced by them

- Patriarchal mindset → resistance to practice
- Abuse in various areas
- Social Stigma (Economic role)
- Absence of support from home [dual burden]
- Vaccine Hesitancy

So there is need for certain **measures** to overcome the challenges.

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Measures

1. Capability building – technological training
2. Equip with technical instruments e.g. power point slides – better awareness generation.
3. Linkage with SHGs – to share role.
4. Role models as change agents e.g. rewarding best performers.
5. Awareness and education.
6. Need for uniformity in salary (Health – State subject)

ASHA play crucial role in achievement of SDG – 2, 3.

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19. Discuss the various concerns that have arisen for India after the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan. Also, suggest the measures that India should take in the given context. **(250 words) 15**

तालिबान द्वारा अफगानिस्तान पर अधिकार करने के बाद भारत के लिए उत्पन्न विभिन्न चिंताओं की विवेचना कीजिए। साथ ही, उन उपायों का सुझाव दीजिए जो इस संदर्भ में भारत द्वारा अपनाए जाने चाहिए।

Recent withdrawal of US security forces from Afghanistan and subsequent takeover by Taliban put various concerns for India.

Concerns

① Security concerns – Taliban part of Golden crescent – challenge of increased drug trafficking

↳ terrorist organisations might use Afghanistan soil as harbour.

② Instability in neighbourhood –

↳ challenge of potential collusion of China – Pakistan – Afghanistan

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③ India undertook various developmental projects in Afghanistan –
E.g. Construction of Parliament.

④ Afghanistan – gateway to Central Asia – Taliban takeover might impede connectivity.

⑤ Human rights violations in Taliban raises concerns for global community.

⑥ India fears mass refugees

In light of above challenges, India can undertake following measures –

① usage of multilateral fora like UNSC, UNGA – for

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voicing Human Rights Protection.

② Aiding food supplies etc. to food insecure Afghan populace.

③ quick passage of Comprehensive Convention against Terrorism.

④ Negotiations with Taliban for future ties — conditionally — when no Human Rights violation occur.

⑤ Security modernisation to deter non-traditional threats.

India can't afford to stay away from Afghanistan as China will form China-Pak-Af tripple Axis. So navigating through challenges is crucial.

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20. Bangladesh is not only a key part of India's "Neighbourhood First policy" but also crucial for the "Act East policy". In this context, discuss the steps taken by the two countries to strengthen their relationship.

(250 words) 15

बांग्लादेश न केवल भारत की "नेबरहुड फर्स्ट पॉलिसी" का एक महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सा है, बल्कि "एक्ट ईस्ट पॉलिसी" के लिए भी अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण है। इस संदर्भ में, दोनों देशों द्वारा अपने संबंधों को मजबूत करने के लिए उठाए गए कदमों की विवेचना कीजिए।

India shares largest land boundary with Bangladesh (> 4000 km) while Bangladesh being India's largest trade partner in neighbourhood.

Importance of Bangladesh –

① Political and diplomacy –
↳ NFP, Act East policy, BBIN, BIMSTEC etc

② Connectivity to North East
↳ Siliguri corridor (Chicken neck)

③ Inter-State rivers – eg Brahmaputra Ganga & tributries.

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(4) Historical – 1971 war of liberation – India's aid.

Challenges in relationship

(1) Refugee influx – Rohingyas

(2) Teesta agreement not consolidated.

(3) Terrorism and security threats – proximity to golden triangle.

(4) China's BRI and Bangladesh e.g. Chittagong port.

Steps that has been taken

(1) Recent Kushiyara river agreement

(2) Land Boundary Agreement – 100th Constitutional Amendment Act.

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③ regional partnerships - BBIN, BIMSTEC etc.

④ Cooperation over interstate rivers.

⑤ Line of Credit given by India to Bangladesh.

⑥ Leveraging soft power - historical ties.

Way ahead

① Need to conclude Teesta Agreement.

② solve issue of refugee.

③ Strengthened soft power -

eg Bangali language, Bangladesh national anthem - by Tagore.

Above steps need to be taken to foster ties of both countries.

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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1840)

Name of Candidate	Komal Punia		
Medium Eng./Hindi	English	Registration Number	1026090
Center	Online	Date	3/3/2023

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
2	10	
3	10	
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9	10	
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11	15	
12	15	
13	15	
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16	15	
17	15	
18	15	
19	15	
20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न–पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH & HINDI**
   इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
   सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
   प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
   प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न–सह–उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
   प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

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EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

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Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

1. While fixed-term employment offers an ingenious way to address specific issues faced by both employers and employees, there are also some concerns associated with it. Discuss in the context of India.

(150 words) 10

हालांकि, नियत अवधि का रोजगार (फिक्स्ड टर्म एम्प्लॉयमेंट) नियोक्ताओं और कर्मचारियों दोनों के द्वारा सामना किए जाने वाले विशिष्ट मुद्दों को हल करने का एक सरल तरीका प्रदान करता है, लेकिन इसके साथ कुछ चिंताएं भी जुड़ी हुई हैं। भारत के संदर्भ में चर्चा कीजिए।

The efficacy of fixed term employmat is specially relevent in post-covid era where ~56% new job creation is in gig or platform based economy.

Benefits of fixed-term employment

Employee specific

1. security of tenure
2. job security in face of crisis (eg. Covid)
3. Benefits like DA, Social security

Employer Specific

1. Stability of workforce
2. fixed wages and payments
3. establish long-term relations [Social Capital]

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Concerns

① rigidity of labour laws
eg Industrial disputes Act 1947 - many rigid provisions.

② formation of trade unions - employer's discontent.

③ Social security and pensions - burden on employer.

④ lower employment rates - low female LFPR [21%]

⑤ Way ahead

① effective implemantation of labour codes

② flexible labour laws - world practice need to be adopted.

A hybrid model inclusive of benefits of fixed-term and gig economy is way ahead.

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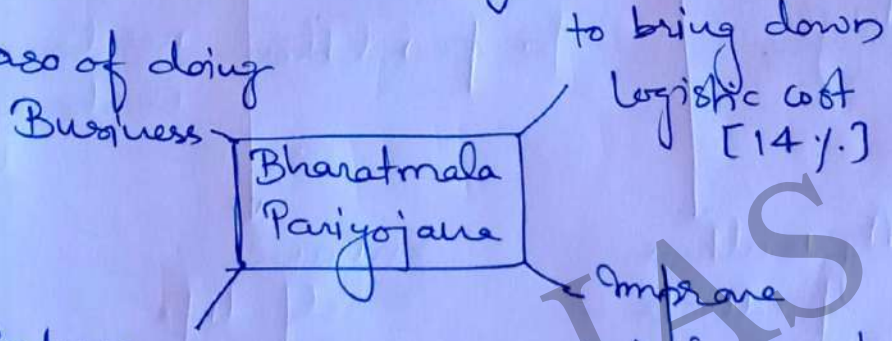
2. An efficient logistics sector with a focus on warehousing is pivotal to the success of the Bharatmala Pariyojana. Discuss. (150 words) 10
वेयरहाउसिंग पर केंद्रित एक कुशल लॉजिस्टिक्स क्षेत्रक भारतमाला परियोजना की सफलता के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है। विवेचना कीजिए।

Bharatmala Pariyojana envisages improving logistic efficiency through multimodal connectivity.



Efficient logistic sector - pivotal

1. provide seamless connectivity.
2. Supply chain linkages
3. Infrastructure creation - for capital investment.
4. Sector specific infrastructure - e.g. Cold chain for food processing.

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(5) Storage, transportation and linkage to marked.

(6) Strong focus on warehousing is needed

- to reduce wastage
- Cold chain for perishables
- multimodality - needs warehousing.
- Agriculture products - need better procurement
- Enhance self-life of products.

Recent initiatives like NIP, PM GATI Shakti, Bharatmala need to bring efficiency to logistic sector.

National Logistic policy 2022 aims to bring logistic cost to 7% [Global average.].

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(इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

3. What do you understand by the term 'irrigation scheduling'? Bringing out the advantages provided by it, discuss the difficulties faced in applying it on a farm level. (150 words) 10

'सिंचाई निर्धारण (इरिगेशन शेड्यूलिंग)' पद से आप क्या समझते हैं? इसके द्वारा उपलब्ध कराये गए लाभों का वर्णन करते हुए, इसे खेत स्तर पर लागू करने के समक्ष आने वाली कठिनाइयों की विवेचना कीजिए।

Irrigation scheduling refers to precise use of irrigation and application based on needs of crops.

Advantages

1. Reduce Groundwater wastage
   ↳ Agriculture accounts for 80% GW extraction.
2. Prevent leaching of nutrients to soil.
3. Enhance crop yield
4. Increased input efficiency
5. Reduce cost of production -

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(6) contribute to doubling farmer's income [Ashok Dalwai Committee]

Difficulties in application

(1) Issue of largescale infrastructure needed.

(2) >85% Small and marginal farmers - challenge of credit for irrigation scheduling.

(3) High maintenance cost and absence of mechanics at local level.

Governmental push by making credit access easy through Priority Sector lending can provide a way ahead.

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4. While the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana was touted as the largest crop insurance scheme globally in terms of farmer participation, various concerns have arisen since its implementation. Discuss. **(150 words) 10**

यद्यपि, प्रधान मंत्री फसल बीमा योजना को किसानों की भागीदारी के संदर्भ में वैश्विक स्तर पर सबसे बड़ी फसल बीमा योजना बताया गया था, तथापि इसके कार्यान्वयन के बाद कई चिंताएं उत्पन्न हुई हैं। चर्चा कीजिए।

PMFBY is one of largest crop insurance scheme to provide support to farmers in lieu of erratic monsoon, climate vagaries etc

PMFBY successes

1. Income safety to large number of farmers in wake of -
   - climate change
     - floods
     - droughts
     - heat waves
   - Reduced productivity
   - Monsoonal delays
2. Ensure input cost for next crop season.
3. Reduction of farmer suicides
4. Sandbox for disaster hit farmers
   eg. Coastal Odisha - cyclone

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Concerns with PMFBY

1. under utilisation of funds
2. Regional imbalances and disparities in implementation.
3. Small and Marginal farmers - not able to garner benefits [Constitutes ~85%]
4. Rising climate extreme events - heatwaves, droughts, floods
5. lack of awareness among farmers.

Way ahead

1. Reduce insurance premium
2. Construction of a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for insurence management

PMFBY is a crucial step to ensure doubling of farmers Income [Ashok Dalwai Committee]

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5. The Stockholm Conference commenced the contemporary "environmental era", which brought a paradigm shift in the environmental governance and set a tone for multi-lateral environmental regime. Discuss. **(150 words) 10**

स्टॉकहोम कॉन्फ्रेंस ने समकालीन "पर्यावरण युग" की शुरुआत की, जो पर्यावरणीय गवर्नेंस में एक आदर्श बदलाव लाया और उसने बहु-आयामी पर्यावरणीय व्यवस्था के लिए एक दिशा प्रदान की। विवेचना कीजिए।

Stockholm Conference heralded the contemporary environmental era by bringing forth issues of climate change and anthropocene.

Contemporary environmental era

- focus on inherent value of Environment and ecology
- Reducing environment destructive practices
- Environmental advocacy and rights - given voice.

Paradigm shift in environment governance -

↳ ① focus on ESG (Environment

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Social Governance)

(2) Global platforms discussing Environment Governance – G20, Earth Summit, CBD, COP27 etc.

(3) Earlier passive response to active mitigation oriented approach.

This all set a tone for multi-lateral environmental regime

- national efforts – NDCs – COP21
- local efforts – for environment conservation [Chipko Movement]
- International Collaboration – COP, CBD etc.

Stockholm Conference aims to achieve SDG and living harmoniously with nature.

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6. The world has witnessed a huge surge in climate-induced disasters, which are largely driven by anthropogenic factors. In this context, analyse the role of early warning systems in mitigating the impact of the disasters. (150 words) 10

विश्व में जलवायु-प्रेरित आपदाओं में अत्यधिक वृद्धि हुई है, जो बड़े पैमाने पर मानवजनित कारकों से प्रेरित हैं। इस संदर्भ में, आपदाओं के प्रभाव के शमन में पूर्व चेतावनी प्रणालियों की भूमिका का विश्लेषण कीजिए।

The events of European heatwaves, Pakistan floods, Turkey Earthquake - are a reminder of surge in climate-induced disasters.

Anthropogenic factors as cause

- ↑ GHG emissions [CO_2 410 ppm]
- Large scale deforestation [~80% due to agriculture]
- Pollution of air, rivers
- Reduced albedo ⇓ melting glaciers

Role of Early Warning Systems (EWS)

① for preparedness and quick response

② EWS enhance readiness to mitigate disasters e.g. Switzerland EWS

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③ Satellites [Rohini Series] - for weather prediction and possible climatic disasters - helps information discmination to people.

④ Evacuation time is provided due to early warning systems.

e.g. Odisha - largest evacuation drive during cyclone Phalin

⑤ reduce damage to lives and property.

World's best practices

① Japan's EWS on Earthquake and Tsunami.

② NavIC for Indian Ocean region.

India should use Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, GIS, GPS, IRNSS, Satcom, 5G - for improving its Early Warning system.

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7. Critically examine the implications of leveraging technology in policing. (150 words) 10

पुलिस व्यवस्था (पुलिसिंग) में प्रौद्योगिकी का लाभ उठाने के निहितार्थों का समालोचनात्मक परीक्षण कीजिए।

Onset of Industrial Revolution 4.0. envisages a modern and technologically driven policing system for effective mitigation of crimes in society.

Benefits of technology in policing

- Inter-departmental coordination [e.g. CCTNS]
- Information database of criminals
- Proactive community policing. [complaints through apps]
- Repository of fingerprints, facial features [eg. South Korea]
- Use of digital trails for crime detection.

↳ technology enhances effective communication between 3 organs of criminal Justice system.

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Police
CJS
detention centers — Judiciary

However, there are certain **issues** associated with it –

① Data privacy – in absence of PDP Bill.

② Misuse of criminal data – sensitive information can curtail their Human Rights

③ lack of digital infrastructure – Digitally illiterate – more prone to harassment.

④ **Way ahead** ① bring in National Policy on technologically driven policing with adequate safeguards.

② Capability building of existing police force.

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8. How far do you agree with the view that climate change poses a threat to international peace and security? (150 words) 10

आप इस विचार से कहाँ तक सहमत हैं कि जलवायु परिवर्तन अंतर्राष्ट्रीय शांति और सुरक्षा के लिए खतरा है?

The newly emerged dimension of international peace and security is driven by exhorbitant climate change.

Climate change: threat to peace & secu

1. Climate Refugees – enhance border tensions
2. threat to existence of Small Island Developing States (SIDS)
   ⇓
   might forge alliances [china using vulnerabilities]
3. food insecurity ← climate change
   ⇓
   Increased tensions over resources ⇒ Increased global conflicts.

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(4) poor and vulnerable → most affected

prone to extreme ideologies [pd terrorist activities]

eg Boko Haram

Climate change as Binding factor

(1) forging new alliances / partnerships -

eg IRIS by SIDS

(2) provide a global challenge - need global efforts and cooperation - highlighted at summits like G20, Quad, UNGA.

Way ahead

(1) Mitigating impacts of climate change - using technology and sustainable practices.

Through collaborative efforts, world needs to unit against chaos posed by climate change

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9. What do you understand by a virtual private network (VPN)? Highlight its advantages and discuss the concerns posed by it. (150 words) 10
वर्चुअल प्राइवेट नेटवर्क (VPN) से आप क्या समझते हैं? इसके लाभों पर प्रकाश डालिए और इससे उत्पन्न चिंताओं पर चर्चा कीजिए।

VPN refers to access of internet to private devices e.g. mobile, laptops etc. This is a big step towards decentralised internet access.

Advantages

① Increased access of internet

② decentralised internet access - facilitated wider reach

③ Increased privacy and security

VPN → Difficult to hack compared to open Network.

④ More safer applications

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Concerns

1. Not immune to cyberattacks
2. Negative impact of false information spreading.
3. Digital illiteracy - exclusion of wide section of population
4. More data (personal) - prone to be misused.
5. Private organisations misusing internet - challenge of Data sovereignity

There is urgent need of Personal Data Protection Bill to be passed as suggested by BN Shrikrina Committee.

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10. The discovery of the Higgs Boson at the Large Hadron Collider in CERN completed 10 years recently. In this context, discuss the role played by CERN in overall scientific development. (150 words) 10

सर्न (CERN) स्थित लार्ज हैड्रॉन कोलाइडर में हिग्स बोसोन की खोज को हाल ही में 10 वर्ष पूरे हो गए हैं। इस संदर्भ में, समग्र वैज्ञानिक विकास में सर्न द्वारा निभाई गई भूमिका पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Large Hadron Collider (LHC) at CERN is a massive particle accelerator - accelerating subatomic particles to nearly speed of light and creating extreme conditions by colliding them - useful in study of subatomic particle's nature.

One of landmark discovery of CERN LHC was discovery of Higgs Boson (God particle) with integral spin moment in 2012. It is believed to be cause of mass of Baryons and Leptons in Standard Model of Particle Physics.

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CERN has played significant role in solving mysteries of Standard model, Unification of forces, discovery of dark matter and role in studying the neutrino problem.

The particles inside LHC are accelerated using magnetic field in a circular chamber. Their collision at femtometer scale discloses the interactions due to strong force, weak force which are observable at that scale. It reproduces conditions of extremely high temperature and pressure.

CERN is still pursuing to solve various unsolved mysteries of particle physics.

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11. Highlighting the factors that affect the cropping pattern in India, discuss the need for modifying it in the context of the emerging agro-ecological concerns. **(250 words) 15**

भारत में फसल पद्धति को प्रभावित करने वाले कारकों पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, उभरती कृषि-पारिस्थितिकी चिंताओं के संदर्भ में इसे संशोधित करने की आवश्यकता पर चर्चा कीजिए।

India is large country having ~18% population, ~2.4% Total geographical area compare to that of world.

Almost 40% area is under cultivation in India – encompassing variety of cropping pattern – which are influence by factors like

- Rainfall patterns [Monsoonal Climate]
- Humidity and Temperature
- Nature of Soil [eg. Black cotton soil]
- Availability of inputs and market
- factors like irrigations, fertilisers etc.

↳ Green Revolution has also

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affected cropping pattern.

Need of modification due to emerging agro-ecological concerns –

① Depletion of water resources – need to move towards drought resistant crops, water efficient crops [e.g. Millets]

② Soil erosion and degradation – need of organic, ZBNF, and Agroforestry

③ Monocropping [due to Green Revolⁿ] ↳ need for crop diversification

④ Climate resistant crops – GM, Genetically Engineered [eg] DMH Mustard.

Sustainable agri practices is need of hour for sustainable developmⁿ.

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~~Effects~~ In order to ensure sustainability, there is need for -

- reducing GHG emissions from agriculture [largest CH_4 emission]
- reduce exploitation of Ground water [Agriculture - 80% Ground water usage]
- region-specific cropping pattern. e.g. water efficient in Punjab

↳ There is need for -

- ↳ Integrated farming system
- ↳ Systemic Rice Intensification program
- ↳ An Indian Agriculture Service U/A 312 can be constructed.

Multilayered efforts need to be taken to ensure food security.

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12. While the budgetary reforms undertaken by the Central government in recent years have led to better management of government expenditure, there are some issues that still need redressal. Discuss. **(250 words) 15**

जहाँ हाल के वर्षों में, केंद्र सरकार द्वारा किए गए बजटीय सुधारों के कारण सरकारी व्यय का बेहतर प्रबंधन संभव हुआ है, वहीं कुछ ऐसे भी मुद्दे विद्यमान हैं जिनका समाधान किया जाना अभी बाकी है। विवेचना कीजिए।

Annual financial Statement (or Budget) Under Article 112 is Statement of receipts and expenditure of central government.

To ensure better management — a set of reforms have been undertaken —

① Constitution of FRBM Act for assuring fiscal consolidation and budget management

② Provision of Gender Budgeting — in budget of every department.

③ synchronised timings of budget session.

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(4) Separation of fiscal policy and monetary policy - Constitution of Monetary Policy Committee.

(5) targetting of fiscal deficit targets [3% of GDP]

(6) doing away revenue deficit target of achieving zero revenue deficit.

Though these steps ushered better management and consolidation, there are some issues that need redressal

(1) need State specific FRBM Act.

(2) inclusion of State voices in TOR of finance Commission
↓
to ensure fiscal federalism

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↳ ③ Need for an independent fiscal Council [14th F.C.]
↓
to promote stable fiscal policy.

↳ ④ Reduction of extra-budgetary borrowings - CAG report concern.

↳ ⑤ Sustainable debt to GDP ratio.

Way ahead

A separate 'Budget Department' under finance Ministry can be envisaged to better align budgetary reforms.

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13. For India to create a 'future ready' railway system, it must harness innovation and resource efficiency. Discuss the statement in the context of the measures enlisted in the National Rail Plan 2030. (250 words) 15

भारत को 'फ्यूचर रेडी' रेलवे प्रणाली के सृजन हेतु, नवाचार और संसाधन दक्षता का उपयोग करना चाहिए। राष्ट्रीय रेल योजना 2030 में सूचीबद्ध उपायों के संदर्भ में इस कथन की विवेचना कीजिए।

Indian Railway network is world's 4th largest. It is cheaper, cost efficient and more secure form of transportation.

future ready railway system looks like -

① Secure, sustainable, faster, clean railway system.
eg. Japan and India - tech share

② Enhance modal mix of railway [currently meagre participation]

③ Important pearl in multi-modal connectivity
↳ bring down logistic ~~efficiency~~ cost [14%]

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(4) Use of bullet trains, Magnetically levitated trains for faster reach.

(5) Enhance cargo share and warehousing.

National Rail Plan 2030 envisages efficient, sustainable and faster railway network —

(1) achieving 100% electrification

(2) Carbon neutrality by 2030 in railway network.

(3) Vande Bharat trains for faster and enhancing connectivity.

(4) reduce overutilisation of existing infrastructure.

eg. Golden Quadrilateral [15% of total network 25% of total traffic]

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(5) envisage PPP participation for expertise, technology and imparting innovation

eg Madhepura Locomotive facility.

(6) Reducing cost of cargo transportation.

Indian Railways is backbone for transportation of 33 crore Indian depending over it. Innovative and resource efficient railway network would ensure sustainable development goals.

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14. Discuss the significance of technology in the Indian agricultural sector. Also, state the challenges in realising its potential to improve agricultural efficiency and increase the income of the farmers. **(250 words) 15**

भारतीय कृषि क्षेत्रक में प्रौद्योगिकी के महत्व पर चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, कृषि दक्षता में सुधार और किसानों की आय बढ़ाने की इसकी क्षमता का उपयोग करने में आने वाली चुनौतियों का भी उल्लेख कीजिए।

Indian Agriculture sector with ~48% workforce depending on it contributes to 17% to India's GDP only.

This imbalance leads to problems of disguised employment and low income to farmers.

Technology can help tackle these problem.

Significance of Technology

① Soil Health - detection of nutrients availability e.g. Soil Health Cards

② Real time monitoring of crops - use of drones [Drone Didi]

③ Climate resilient crops

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③ Biotechnology - GM crops, HVYs of seeds, hybrid crops - Increase efficiency [e.g] Bt Cotton

④ Precision farming - suited to crop needs and soil productivity.

⑤ digitisation of land records - reduce conflicts - and establish farmers' ownership [NMLRDP]

Challenges in realising the potential

① In improving agriculture efficiency

↳ ① digital illiteracy - farmers not having knowledge of available apps/schemes.

↳ ② skepticism about soil health cards - ineffective implementation

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↳ ③ Issues of GM crops –
↳ long term reduction in efficiency.

ⓑ Increasing farmers income –
↳ ① Cost of technology – unaffordable mechanisation, drones etc.
↳ ② Precision farming require precise input application – increase cost of labour

Way ahead – ① Affordable mechanisation under SMAM
↳ ② need for effective implementation of Digital Agriculture Mission

Technology has potential to double farmer income and ensure sustainable agriculture practices.

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15. Despite the digital transformation in the Public Distribution System (PDS) in India, several challenges still remain. Elaborate. Also, suggest measures to address them. **(250 words) 15**

भारत में सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली (PDS) में डिजिटल रूपांतरण के बावजूद, अभी भी अनेक चुनौतियां विद्यमान हैं। सविस्तार वर्णन कीजिए। साथ ही, इनके समाधान हेतु उपायों का सुझाव दीजिए।

PDS is one of largest welfare programs to ensure food security in India.

PDS under NFSA 2013

- ~81 crore beneficiaries (67% population)
- rights based approach (right to food)
- 5 kg per person food grains
- nutritional security

Digital transformation of PDS

1. Biometric Aadhar identification of beneficiaries.
2. provision of DBT
3. digitalised data records of beneficieries (identified by States)

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Challenges still remains

1. Corruption and leakages of foodgrains
2. procurement issue of FCI - inflates the cost of procurement.
3. exclusion and inclusion errors.
4. digital illiteracy - ~80% digitally illiterate.
5. Misuse of Aadhar information [need PDP Bill to be passed]
6. Insufficient food grains - hunger and malnutrition prevalence.
7. challenges in distribution and beneficiery identification.

Measures that can be taken

1. Use of GPS in distribution to prevent leakage ~~for Chattis~~

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e.g. Andhra Pradesh

② Direct Benefit Transfer – can curb menace of corruption

③ PDS departments in state govt. e.g. Chattisgarh

④ Wadhwa Committee recommendation –
↳ need to establish state level civil supply corporation.

⑤ Right to food as fundamental Right [PUCL vs UoI case] – need to ensure nutritional security.

⑥ fortified rice and millets also to be provided.

Efficient PDS is crucial to achieve SDG-2 and food security.

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16. Discuss the various concerns that exist with regard to fuel efficiency regulations for vehicles in India. Also, suggest the measures that can be taken in this regard. **(250 words) 15**

भारत में वाहनों के लिए ईंधन दक्षता विनियमों के संबंध में विद्यमान विभिन्न चिंताओं पर चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, इस संदर्भ में किए जा सकने वाले उपायों का भी सुझाव दीजिए।

Ever increasing cost of fuel and volatility in international market demands fuel efficiency regulations.

Fuel efficiency regulations in India

① flex fuels – use of ethanol blended petrol & diesel for enhanced efficiency and reduced vehicular emissions.

e.g. 20% ethanol blending target

② fuel efficiency regulations for e-vehicles, gas fueled vehicles, also exists.

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Concerns

1. Suitability of engine for flex fuels.
2. Higher ethanol blending might corrode engine.
3. Issue of cost and higher prices
4. Ineffective implementation of targets.

Measures that can be taken

1. Adoption of e-vehicles – e.g. FAME scheme.
2. Use of Green Hydrogen as a sustainable alternative.
3. Bharat Stage VI norms to be followed strictly.

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(4) Adoption of State-of-art technology for engines suited to blended fuel.

(5) Diversification of oil supply chain.

fuel cost has direct impact on cost of various goods – it inflates cost of food & transportation cost.

A sustainable alternatives like Green Hydrogen Mission and e-vehicles provides way forward.

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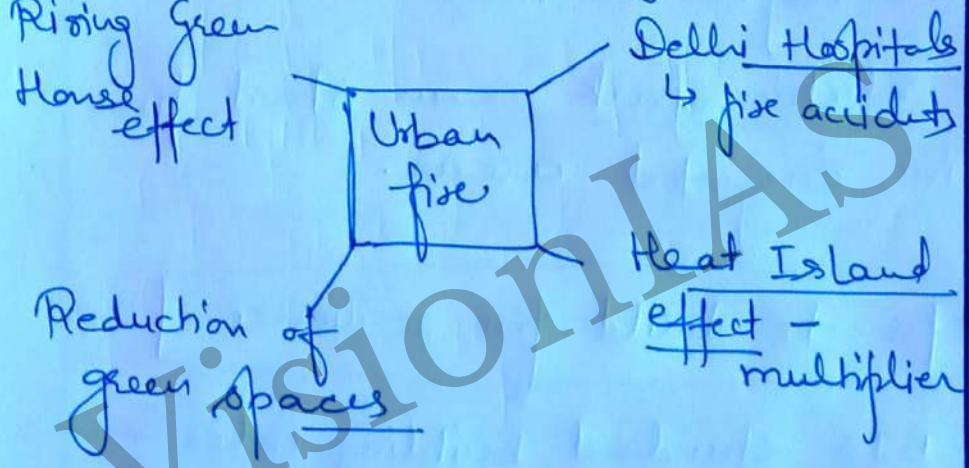
17. Urban fire is becoming a serious cause of concern in Indian cities. In this context, highlight the major causes behind urban fires in India. What steps can be taken to build robust fire resilience in Indian cities? **(250 words) 15**

शहरी आग (अर्बन फायर) भारतीय शहरों में चिंता का एक गंभीर कारण बनती जा रही है। इस संदर्भ में, भारत में शहरी आग के प्रमुख कारणों पर प्रकाश डालिए। भारतीय शहरों में मजबूत अग्नि रोधी क्षमता के निर्माण हेतु क्या कदम उठाए जा सकते हैं?

Urban fire incidents has claimed various lives in recent past with huge impact on property as well.



Major Causes for urban fire

① Climate change – ↑ GHG – Global temperature already 1.1°C risen [IPCC]

② Grey Infrastructure – causes

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Heat Island effect

④ Deforestation, encroachment of wetlands — reduced albedo

① Pollution - ground level ozone, Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) etc. - catalytic reactions

⑤ Electric spark - can start fires in congested areas.

Steps to build fire resilience

① BIS standard building codes - while construction.

② Green Infrastructure - green parks wetlands, trees, etc.

③ fire resistant materials can be used while building - e.g. Geotextiles [Technical textiles]

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Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

(4) fire safety norms to be strictly followed in every organisation

(5) Proper ventilation to avoid accumulation of VOCs.

(6) Proactive fire mitigation strategy ~~at~~ to be adopted in urban planning.

Cities will be housing >50% Indian population by 2050. fire resilience in urban planning is need of hour to ensure SDG of 'Sustainable Infrastructure'.

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18. Drones in border areas present a serious threat for border management in India. Elaborate. Also, discuss the different measures taken to regulate the use of drones in India. **(250 words) 15**

सीमावर्ती क्षेत्रों में ड्रोन, भारत में सीमा प्रबंधन के समक्ष एक गंभीर खतरा उत्पन्न करते हैं। सविस्तार वर्णन कीजिए। साथ ही, भारत में ड्रोन के उपयोग को विनियमित करने के लिए किए गए विभिन्न उपायों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Drones or Unmaned Areal Vehicles (UAVs) have emerged as serious threats in Border Area Managemt. Recent incidents of drone strikes in J&K is an example of this.

Drone as threat at Border

① Remotely controlled nature ⇒ difficult to trace origin ← surveillance from far off areas

Complex nature of technology used → potential to start war due to misunderstand

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② Cheaply available technology

- used in drug trafficking
- linkage with organised crimes
- surveillance of security agencies

③ Easy manuverability - can cause large scale destruction to both civilian infrastructure and Critical Information Infrastructure.

Measures taken

① Guidelines to regulate drone use over restricted, and civilian spaces.

② Make In India initiative to manufacture drone hardware - to enhance deterrance.

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③ Initiatives like DraaS, Drone Shakti has been taken.

further measures needed

① A national policy regulating use of UAVs is need of hour.

② International collaboration over 'drone as emerging threat' is needed to regulate their use.

③ Respect for civilian space is needed to ensure - Human Rights of people need to be protected alongwith their privacy.

④ Government can deploy use of drones in Border Area Management.

Drone's use has increased complexity of border management. Efforts ~~and~~ for regulation need to culminate, ~~into~~

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19. Despite a global framework to prevent weaponization of space, it has been increasing in the recent times. Discuss. Also, give an account of the implications of space weaponization. (250 words) 15

अंतरिक्ष के शस्त्रीकरण को रोकने के लिए एक वैश्विक ढांचा होने के बावजूद, हाल के दिनों में इसमें वृद्धि हुई है। चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, अंतरिक्ष के शस्त्रीकरण के निहितार्थों का विवरण दीजिए।

Outer Space has emerged as 4th space for ~~fa~~ warfare, with increasing weaponization globally.

Weaponization of Space

- Reconaissance Satellites
- Surveillance for territory
- Imaging and geospatial data
- Use of GPS for hacking
- Satellite Communication misuse

Global framework to prevent

① Outer space treaty regarding outer space activities.

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② Friendly usage of space.

③ Implication of Space Weaponisation

① Kessler's Syndrome – problem of cascading effect of space junk.

② Inequitable use of space – Developed countries – technologically advanced – capturing space critical positions

e.g. JWT placed at L2 point.

③ Space Warfare – threaten human existence.

④ Use of global commons for disturbing international peace and security e.g. US denied

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GPS access to India while providing Pakistan the same.

Way ahead

① A legally binding treaty on peaceful use of outer space is need of hour.

Outer space is global common. Peaceful usage should be included in Sustainable Development Goals.

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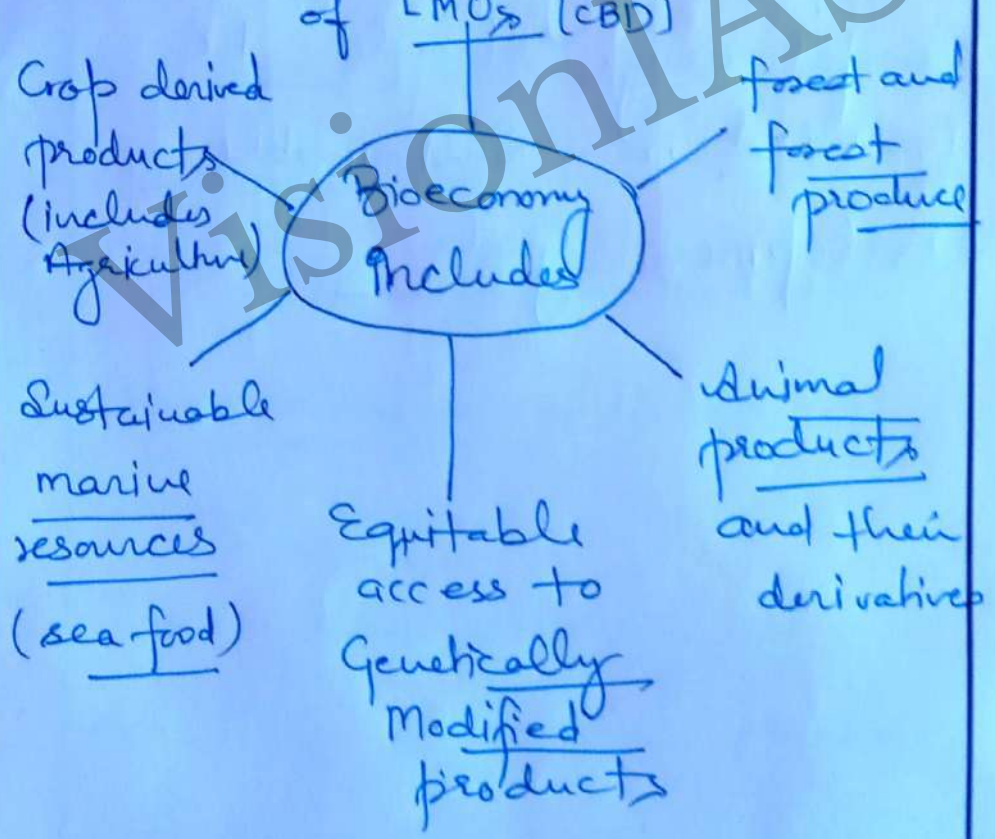
20. What do you understand by a bio-economy? Highlight the role that the National Biotechnology Development Strategy 2021-2025 can play in creating a robust bio-economy in India. **(250 words) 15**

बायो-इकोनॉमी (जैव-अर्थव्यवस्था) से आप क्या समझते हैं? भारत में एक मजबूत बायो-इकोनॉमी के सृजन में राष्ट्रीय जैव प्रौद्योगिकी विकास रणनीति 2021-2025 द्वारा निभाई जा सकने वाली भूमिका पर प्रकाश डालिए।

Bio-economy refers the use, and value generated by biological products for trade and global use.



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Role of National Biotechnology Development Strategy 2021-25

① Achievement of Sustainable Development goals of marine product usage, ecological productivity.

② Role in blue economy - sustainable usage.

③ Ethical Genetic Modification and equitable Benefit and Acess sharing [Cartegena and Nagoya Protocol]

④ Enhance tribal products - value generation - branding - local for vocal.

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(5) promotion of regenerative agriculture.

(6) promote Nature based solutions for sustainable development.

Bio-economy has huge potential for economic growth as well as sustainable development. National strategy has crucial role to play in it.

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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 2086)

Name of Candidate	Komal Punia		
Medium Eng./Hindi	English	Registration Number	1026090
Center	Online	Date	24/08/2023

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
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3	10	
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10	10	
11	15	
12	15	
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17	15	
18	15	
19	15	
20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न–पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **HINDI & ENGLISH**
   इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं हिन्दी और अंग्रेजी में छपे हैं।
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
   सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
   प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
   प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न–सह–उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
   प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

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EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

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1. क्या आप इस विचार से सहमत हैं कि भारत में न्यायिक जवाबदेही सुनिश्चित करने के लिए एक नया कानून बनाने की आवश्यकता है?

Do you agree with the view that there is a need to enact a new law for ensuring judicial accountability in India? (Answer in 150 words) 10

The need for National Judicial Accountability Bill has long been envisaged to usher accountability and transparency in judicial appointments and proceedings.

Need for accountability law

① Opaque collegium system functioning
↳ judiciary appointing judges in non-transparent manner.

② Very limited applicability of RTI - despite being public authority.

③ CJI's role as master of roster
↳ can be misused.

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(4) Vacancies and judges shortage

↳ 21 judges per million population.

National Judicial Accountability Bill will usher –

↳ disclosure of grounds of judges appointment.

↳ timely appointment to fill vacancies.

↳ will ensure judicial standards and Principle of Natural Justice.

Thus, there is need for enacting a new law. Supreme Court judgement of Swapnil Tripathi vs Supreme Court – live broadcasting of judicial proceedings is the first step.

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2. भारतीय संविधान के लागू होने के बाद से मूल अधिकारों और राज्य की नीति के निदेशक तत्वों (DPSPs) में संवैधानिक रूप से सामंजस्य स्थापित करना एक कठिन कार्य रहा है। प्रासंगिक न्यायिक निर्णयों की सहायता से चर्चा कीजिए।

Constitutionally reconciling Fundamental Rights with the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSPs) has been a tough task since the inception of the Indian Constitution. Discuss with the help of relevant case laws. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Fundamental Rights as enshrined in Part III [Art 14-32] are hallmark of individual liberty and safeguards against arbitrary legislation.

While DPSPs are moral obligation on State for public welfare.

Reconciliation – a tough task

① Conflict started with policy of reservation ensuring DPSP.

② Supreme Court in Golakhnath Case accorded transcendental position to fundamental rights,

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③ 24th Constitutional Amendment Act – Art 39(b),(c) supremacy over fundamental rights.
↓
④ Keshavanand Bharati case (1973) –
↳ uphold constitutionality of 24th Amendment subject to basic structure.

⑤ subsequent amendment – all DPSP supreme over FRs.

⑥ Minerva Mills case – balance between DPSP & FRs – bedrock of constitution.

Doctrine of harmonious interpretation evolved to clarify the relation between DPSP & FR – according to which they should be harmoniously interpreted.

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3. प्रधान मंत्री कार्यालय (PMO) द्वारा किए जाने वाले कार्यों और भारत में नीति-निर्माण को आकार देने में इसकी भूमिका पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Discuss the functions performed by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and its role in shaping policy-making in India. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Prime Minister's Office (PMO) headed by Principle secretary is mandated to perform and ease burden of Prime Minister (PM).

functions -

1. Art 78 - communication with President as the seek information from PM.
2. Interdepartmental coordination.
   - with cabinet secretariate & Parliament secretariate.
3. Seeking suggestions from Stakeholders (public) on policy matters.

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Role in shaping policy-making

① Assist PM's flagship schemes
(eg) PM Awas Yojana, Swachh Bharat mission.

② Planning role - with respect of functions of PM.

③ helps achieving PM's responsibility as Primus inter pares

However, it has been accused of

- Over centralisation in planning process.
- dilution of federalism
- lack of stakeholder consultations.

PMO plays significant role in Indian Parliamentary system in reducing burden of PM (real head).

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4. भारतीय दंड संहिता (IPC) की धारा 124A के प्रावधानों का पुनरीक्षण करने और उन पर पुनर्विचार करने के लिए नागरिक स्वतंत्रताओं एवं मानवाधिकार संबंधी चिंताओं तथा भारत की संप्रभुता एवं अखंडता को बनाए रखने और उसकी रक्षा करने के बीच संतुलन बनाने की आवश्यकता है। टिप्पणी कीजिए।

Re-examination and reconsideration of the provisions of Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) requires striking a balance between concerns of civil liberties and human rights, and maintaining and protecting the sovereignty and integrity of India. Comment. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Section 124A IPC is a safeguard against sedition i.e. willfully delegitimises authority of lawfully established government.

Concerns of civil liberties & human rights

- Archaic law - colonial era → curb freedom of speech and expression.
- Chilling effect & detention → blurring distinction between dissent and defiance.
- Low conviction rate.

Maintaining sovereignty & integrity

① promote national security.

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② Art 19(2) - reasonable restriction on freedom of speech & expression..

③ Ensure law and order & deter hate speech, defamation, contempt of court etc.

Striking a balance

- Adequate safeguards for protection expression.
- Kedarnath Singh vs State of Bihar - upheld constitutionality but warned against arbitrary misuse.

22nd Law commission recently recommended to retain Section 124A with safeguard of police ~~level~~ inspector level enquiry to protect liberty & rights.

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5. "ग्रामीण भारत में ई-गवर्नेंस पहलों की सफलता के लिए नागरिक भागीदारी महत्वपूर्ण है।" टिप्पणी कीजिए।

"Citizen participation is key to the success of e-governance initiatives in rural India." Comment. (Answer in 150 words) 10

E-governance refers to use of Information and communication technology, computer resources in social and economic resource management and public service delivery.

E-governance initiatives in rural India

- National Optic fibre Network
- SVAMITVA scheme - surveying using drones
- e-NAM, e-KISAN, e-Panchayats initiatives.
- 5G connectivity to rural India for effective service delivery like DBT.
- land records - DILRMP - digitalisation of land records management Plan

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Citizen participation as key

1. Social Audit for timely completion of projects.
2. Effective use of citizens charter for better service delivery.
3. local resources and local constraints
   (e.g.) Soil Health cards - for soil quality.
4. Role of Gram Sabha, Gram Panchayats in beneficiary identification
   (e.g.) e-muster rolls (MGNREGA)

for e-governance initiatives to succeed, challenges like digital divide, illiteracy, privacy issue should be tackled using Personal Data Protection Act and rural broadband connectivity.

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6. आपके अनुसार आकांक्षी जिला कार्यक्रम अपनी शुरूआत के बाद से अपने उद्देश्यों की प्राप्ति में कितना सफल रहा है?

How far do you think the Aspirational District Programme has been able to achieve its objectives since its inception? (Answer in 150 words) 10

Aspirational District Programme (ADP) was launched to develop districts with poor socio-economic indicators.

Success of ADP

1. Improved ranking of districts.
2. Provisioning of basic amenities - housing (under Awas Yojana), sanitation, water etc.
3. Integrated with SC & ST development
4. Infrastructure creation coupled with employment generation.

However, certain challenges has retarded its functioning -

1. Non-fulfillment of Sustainable

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Development Goal ranking.

② lack of adequate funds.

③ poor quality infrastructure - lack of education, healthcare - still persists.

To improve its functioning and expand its reach -

① Budget 2023-24 increased fund allocation.

② Also introduced Aspirational Blocks Programme. (ABP).

Both programmes together will help India achieve SDGs 1, 2, 6, 11. as Azadi ka Amrit kaal.

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7. NGO क्षेत्रक को आगे बढ़ाने और लाभार्थियों के लिए आउटकम्स को बेहतर बनाने में प्रौद्योगिकी की भूमिका महत्वपूर्ण है। उदाहरण सहित विवेचना कीजिए।
Technology has a crucial role to play in advancing the NGO sector and improving outcomes for beneficiaries. Discuss with examples. (Answer in 150 words) 10

NGOs are informal, voluntary organisations working for public welfare.

Use of technology in advancing NGO

- Capacity Building
- faster speed and avoid duplication of efforts.
- Expand reach
  - e.g. Last mile connectivity
- Real time data collection for evidence-based welfare.
  - e.g. ADR using RTI filing.
- Financial Inclusion
  - e.g. NGO SEWA using fintech solns

Improving outcomes for beneficiaries

- ① Better engagement through

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use of projectors, power point.

e.g. Society for Integrated Development of Himalayas (SIDH)

② Beneficiary empowerment –

e.g. ASER report online – help education awareness.

③ Inclusive development

- LGBTQ
- Elderly (SACRED portal)
- Children (Amma Unavagam)
- Women

However challenges like –

- Lack of tech. education
- Digital illiteracy
- Costly technology

Way forward

- ① Innovative technology
  e.g. HESCO Dehradun – small wind farms.
- State led capacity building (KUDUMBSHREE)
- National Policy on voluntary organisations 2007 can provide way forward.

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8. तकनीकी और उच्चतर शिक्षा के लिए विदेशी शिक्षण संस्थानों के भारत में प्रवेश से जुड़े निहितार्थों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Discuss the implications associated with the entry of foreign educational institutions for technical and higher education in India. (Answer in 150 words) 10

National Education Policy 2020 envisages India as knowledge superpower. for this entry of foreign educational institutions to improve education standards and world class education is allowed.

Positive implications

1. International best practices within country.
2. checking brain-drain.
3. India as knowledge hub
   - Increase FDI & investment
4. Human resource development & harnessing demographic dividend.
5. Improve QS ranking of Indian universities

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Negative Implications

① Impact on indigenous knowledge systems.

② Unregulated - may increase Anti-India proganda among youth.

③ Rising competition for domestic universities & colleges.

④ dilution of culture & tradition.

Way forward

① Regulatory framework without hampering autonomy.

② effectively implement foreign currency Regulation Act (FCRA) to curb foreign fund for Anti-India activities in education.

foreign educational institutions with sufficient safeguards will contribute to knowledge economy and Amrit Peedhi

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9. भारत और लैटिन अमेरिका के देशों के बीच फलता-फूलता संबंध भारत की विदेश नीति का एक महत्वपूर्ण भाग बन गया है। परीक्षण कीजिए।

The flourishing relationship between India and countries of Latin America has become a critical element of India's foreign policy. Examine. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Flourishing relationship India and Latin American countries is a testimony of South - South cooperation.

Relationship between India and Latin American countries –

① International forums – supporting India's bid of permanent membership at UNSC e.g. Brazil

② Global groupings –
BRICS : 25% GDP, 40% population.

③ Trade potential – unlocked potential.
Chile – lithium leader
Peru – marine economy

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Alignment with foreign policy

① India's look West policy - Increasing engagement with western countries.

② Interests in Indo-Pacific - common strategic area of interest

③ Aim of leadership of south -

④ Countering China's increasing presence in the continent.

Challenges
- ① Trade below potential - no significant trade agreement.
- ② Chinese investment in the region.

Way ahead
- ① Strengthening South-South solidarity.
- ② Timely project export.

Latin American continent is a continent of opportunities for India.

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10. ऋण-जाल कूटनीति क्या है? चीन की ऋण-जाल कूटनीति भारत के पड़ोस में भारतीय हितों को कैसे प्रभावित करती है?

What is debt-trap diplomacy? How does China's debt-trap diplomacy impact India's interests in its neighbourhood? (Answer in 150 words) 10

Debt-trap diplomacy in context of China is huge investment coupled with unsustainable debt rates in developing and needy countries.

e.g. China's leasing of Hambantota Port (99 years) Sri Lanka.

features of debt trap

- Part of China's Belt & Road Initiative (BRI)
- Project export and infra creation
- High interest rates
- Increasing Chinese presence

Impact on India's interest in neighbourhood

① Except Bhutan - all neighbours part of BRI.

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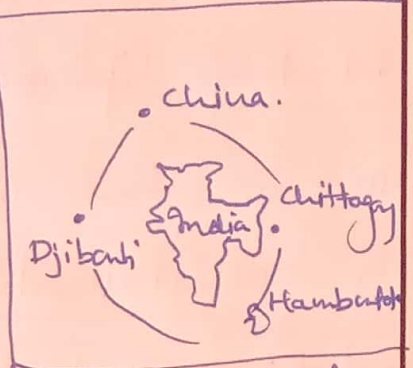
② Strategic interests - china's string of pearls - encirclement of India.

③ Economic influence on neighbours -
(e.g.) Yuan Wang-5 visit - Srilanka's debt situation.



String of pearls

④ Impacting foreign policies of neighbours
(e.g.) fear of China-Pak-Afghan axis

⑤ breaching India's sphere of influence - Indian ocean

Way ahead
- ① Gujral doctrine - non-reciprocity.
- ② Project Mausam, IMT bilateral, ~~Highway~~ Kaladan multimodal etc - timely execution.

Countering the impact of debt trap is essential for India's Neighbourhood first Policy.

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11. विश्व भर के विभिन्न संविधानों का मिश्रण होने के बावजूद, भारतीय संविधान अपने विभिन्न प्रावधानों के माध्यम से सामाजिक न्याय, बहुलवाद और समानता को आत्मसात किए हुए है। टिप्पणी कीजिए।

Despite being an amalgamation of various constitutions from across the world, the Indian Constitution imbibes social justice, pluralism, and equality through its various provisions. Comment. (Answer in 250 words) 15

Indian constitution is one of largest constitution with various elements from other constitutions across world.

Amalgamation of various constitutions

- fundamental Rights from US Bill of Rights
- fundamental duties — (Art 51A) USSR
- Parliamentary System - Britain
- Directive Principles from Irish Constitution.
- Enforcement of National Emergency - Germany.

Despite this, Indian constitution

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imbibe –

① Social justice
- ① Art 15, 16 – fundamental rights – Prohibit discrimination based on race, religion caste etc.
- ② Prohibition child labour (Art 23) & human trafficking (Art 24)
- ③ Reservation in education & public employment – Art 15(3), 16(3).

② Pluralism
- ① Secularism in Preamble
- ② freedom of religion – Art (25–28).
- ③ Unity in diversity.

③ Equality
- ① Right to equality – fundamental Right (Art 14–18)

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② Universal adult suffrage (Art 326)

③ Protection of interest of vulnerables

However, challenges undermining it –

- Curbing of freedom of speech, hate speech.
- Communal tensions – e.g. Nuh violence
- failure of trickle down & increasing inequality.

Despite these challenges, Indian Constitution has lived upto aspirations of people to fulfil the aims of Socialist, Secular, democratic Republic.

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12. हाल के कुछ घटनाक्रमों ने भारत में वैवाहिक बलात्कार को अपराध घोषित करने के मुद्दे को प्रकाश में लाया है। देश में वैवाहिक बलात्कार के पीड़ितों के लिए कानूनी संरक्षण सुनिश्चित करने के निहितार्थों का विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Recent developments have brought to light the issue of criminalizing marital rape in India. Analyse the implications of ensuring legal protection for victims of marital rape in the country. (Answer in 250 words) 15

Marital rape is an exception under section 375 IPC which exempt it from criminalisation purview by scrutiny of police.

Issues of marital rape

① Domestic violence and lack of bodily autonomy.

② As per UNFPA, >66% women face violence with marital rape as one of biggest cause.

③ Violates women dignity.

④ Infringe the Right to freedom.

⑤ leads to unsafe abortions.

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These challenges demands criminalisation of marital rapes but there are issues of criminalising it –

① Difficult to prove between consensual and forced.

② prone to misuse due to inherent opacity.

③ May destabilise institution of marriage.

④ Against customary laws

⑤ Ignore the dimension of male sexual exploitation.

Way forward

① Justice Verma Committee recommended to criminalise.

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② Many countries have criminalised

③ Supremacy of constitutional morality over customary morality.

④ Spread awareness about reproductive autonomy and agency.

Criminalisation marital rape is a long envisaged reform. With adaquate consultations and awareness campaigns, Indian society must welcome it.

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13. "संघवाद के भारतीय मॉडल की अत्यधिक केंद्रीकृत होने के कारण आलोचना की जाती है, लेकिन यह राज्यों को पर्याप्त अवसर और स्वायत्तता भी प्रदान करता है।" विश्लेषण कीजिए।

"The Indian model of federalism has been criticized for being too centralized, but it also provides adequate space and autonomy to the states." Analyse. (Answer in 250 words) 15

Indian model of federalism is unique. As per K.C. Wheare, it is quasi-federal in nature.

Criticized for being too centralised

① Governor's office –
- ↳ misuse of Art 200, 201
- ↳ President's rule report.
- ↳ misuse of discretionary powers (Art 163)

② 7th Schedule –
- ↳ more number of subjects as well important subjects in Union list.

③ All India services – tussle between centre & state.

④ Financial dependence – Statutory &

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discretionary grants

(5) Amending power to centre - limited State's role (Art 368)

(6) Constitutional provisions -
- ↳ Emergency
- ↳ Art 256, 257 - centre can issue directions.

Yet, it provides adequate space to States -

- Division of subjects (3 lists)
- federalism as basic structure - S.R. Bommai
- State civil services
- finance Commission - devolution (14%)
- Inter-State Council (Art 263)

Autonomy to States
- ↳ (1) State list - exclusive legislative power.
- ↳ (2) Separate Vidhan Sabha &

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Vidhan Parishad.

③ President protecting State's interests

- laws varying agriculture - require assent.
- Assent in case of inter-State trade
- Can issue regulation with respect to Schedule 5th & 6th areas.

④ GST council & NITI Aayog.

Supreme Court in West Bengal vs Union of India case clarified that Indian constitution does not spell strict federalism.

In order to specify the nature of federation, a fresh State Reorganisation Commission can be constituted.

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14. भारतीय निर्वाचन आयोग (ECI) में नियुक्तियों को लेकर उच्चतम न्यायालय के हालिया निर्णय ने नियुक्ति प्रक्रिया को मूल रूप से बदल दिया है और इसके संभावित दूरगामी निहितार्थ भी हो सकते हैं। विवेचना कीजिए।

The recent judgment of the Supreme Court on appointments to the Election Commission of India (ECI) has fundamentally changed the appointment process and can have potentially far-reaching implications. Discuss. (Answer in 250 words) 15

Supreme Court in Anoop Baiwal vs Union of India 2023 case established Collagium system for appointment of Election commissioners doing away the power of executive (President).

Changes made in appointment process

1. Appointment by committee of Prime Minister, leader of Opposion, and Chief Justice of India.
2. Parliament can form legislation for process.

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Rationale for changes

1. perceived legislative vaccume
2. Inertia of legislature as not formed law for appointment yet.
3. to usher transparency & accountability
4. To free election commission from executive influence
5. to tackle issue of truncated tenure of ECs.

This judgement is being criticised for –

1. Judicial overreach
2. dilution of seperation of power.
3. Reform desired (Dinesh Goswami committee) but via legislation & not judicial pronouncement.

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↳ (4) Not reported cases of arbitrariness by Election Commission which would have necessitated this.

The judgement has far reaching consequence as judiciary usurp legislative power.

Though ARC II recommended for selection committee but as envisaged in Art 324, the legislation should be by Parliament.

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15. वैश्विक बदलावों के साथ समेकन और अर्थव्यवस्था के खुलने के परिणामस्वरूप लोक सेवाओं के लिए विविध चुनौतियां उत्पन्न हो गई हैं, जिनके कारण कुशल सेवा वितरण के लिए उनमें समग्र सुधारों की आवश्यकता है। विवेचना कीजिए।

Integration with the global trends and opening up of the economy has resulted in diversified challenges for the civil services, which require holistic reforms for efficient service delivery. Discuss. (Answer in 250 words) 15

Civil services are considered as backbone for effective service delivery and good governance.

Diversified challenges

- Non-traditional security threats. eg terrorism
- Corruption and red-tapism
- Complex challenges - Climate change.

Challenges of neo-liberal market led top-down approach.

Impact of global stability on food security, economic growth, etc.

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Holistic reforms for efficient service delivery -

① Political front - Accountability, transparency, Bureacratic anonymity (e.g. Social media celebrity - civil servants)

② Governance -
- ① e-Governance initiatives - (e.g.) PRAGATI
- Integration of best practices (e.g.) Singapore's Corrupt Practices Investigat Bureau (CPIB)

③ Technology
- ① Use of Artificial Intelligence - (e.g.) Andhra & Telangana - land records blockchain based.
- ② Generative AI (e.g.) ChatGpt

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(4) Knowledge Inclusion
- Indigenous as well as modern.
- different streams & backgrounds.

However challenges persists —
- Status quoist nature
- Resistance to reform
- Power asymmetry - hinder service delivery.

Way forward
1. Hota committee recommendations
2. iGOT - Mission Karmayogi
3. National Civil Services Training Institute.

These will ensure civil services dealing with 21st century challenges and leading India to newer heights in Amrit kaal.

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16. भारत में ई-गवर्नेंस में पारदर्शिता और जवाबदेहिता को बढ़ावा देने में ओपन डेटा क्या भूमिका निभा सकता है? देश में ओपन डेटा की गुणवत्ता और विश्वसनीयता सुनिश्चित करने में कौन-सी चुनौतियां विद्यमान हैं?

What role can open data play in promoting transparency and accountability in e-governance in India? What are the challenges in ensuring the quality and reliability of open data in the country? (Answer in 250 words) 15

Open data refers to data publicly available which doesn't infringe privacy and need data principle's consent.

Role of open data in transparency

- Public scrutiny feasible
- Awareness regarding entitlements
- Capability building (e.g. ASER report.)

Role in accountability

- Reduce avenues of corruption.
- Will improve Social Audit
- data traceability & digital trail.

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There are challenges with respect to

① Quality
- ① fraud accounts
- ② Duplication of Aadhar details
- ③ fudging of e-muster rolls (MGNREGA)

② Reliability
- ① Biases and ethical issues
- ② No mechanism to check accuracy.

Thus these challenges can hinder use of open data.

Way forward
- ① Open data governance policy - to maximise its use.

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↳ ② Big data Analysis

↳ ③ Use of AI algorithm to enhance quality & accuracy.

As directed in Puttaswamy judgement Personal Data Protection Act will regulate & protect personal data.

Similarly, there is need for framework for using open data in promoting e-governance.

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17. भारत में 'जीरो फूड' बच्चों की व्यापकता को कम करने के लिए मातृ पोषण को प्राथमिकता देने की आवश्यकता है। टिप्पणी कीजिए।

To reduce the prevalence of 'zero food' children in India, maternal nutrition needs to be made a priority. Comment. (Answer in 250 words) 15

As per NFHS-5, 19% of children are wasted while 35% are stunted. This reflect nutritional deficiency and prevalence of hidden hunger.

Causes of prevalence of 'zero food' children in India -

- Poor health of mother - 57% anemic (NFHS-5)
- Poverty and malnutrition prevalence
- Lack of awareness among people.
- Uninstitutional deliveries - (13% - NFHS-5)
- Lack of nutritious food - food diversificat" needed.

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Need for maternal nutrition

1. In order to reduce IMR (32/1000) and MMR (103/1000).
2. feeding milk – best nutrition for child – provides strong immunity.
3. reduce stunting & wasting.

Steps taken

1. PM Matru Vandana Yojana
2. National food Security Act 2013
   - ₹6000 to Pregnant & Lactating mothers.
3. Integrated child and Development Scheme (ICDS)
4. POSHAN 2.0, Mission Shakti etc.
5. National Sickle-cell Anemia Mission.

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further measures needed-

1. fortification of food
2. food diversification
   - millets
   - milk
   - Pulses
   - vegetables
3. maternity education to women.

These measures will ensure realisation of SDG 2 (zero hunger) in effective manner.

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18. हाल ही में, केंद्र सरकार ने दुर्लभ रोगों के उपचार हेतु व्यक्तिगत उपयोग के लिए आयातित सभी खाद्य सामग्रियों और दवाओं को सीमा शुल्क से छूट प्रदान की है। भारत में लोक स्वास्थ्य के मुद्दे के रूप में दुर्लभ रोगों से संबंधित चिंताएं क्या हैं? इनका किस प्रकार समाधान किया जा सकता है?

Recently, the Central government exempted all foods and drugs for rare diseases imported by people for personal use from customs duty. What are the concerns related to rare diseases as a public health issue in India? How can these be resolved? (Answer in 250 words) 15

Rare diseases are non-communicable diseases with very less prevalence & usually lack of availability of treatment.

Eg. Spinal Muscular Atrophy.

Concerns related to rare diseases

- Lack of timely care.
- Lack of early detection.
- Evolving forms and rising complexities.
- High cost of treatment adds to high Out of Pocket Expenditure (O.O.P.)
- Long term treatment needed.

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Resolution of these challenges –

1. High quality, low cost treatment
2. Enhancing accessibility – as uneven distribution of tertiary healthcare
4. Preventive care – lifestyle changes and awareness.
5. Early detection and diagnosis.
6. Increase availability of trained doctors & nurses.

Steps needed

1. Collaboration with Private Player – PPP (NITI Aayog)
2. Right to health – (Bandhua Mukti Morcha case.)
3. Enhancing insurance penetration.

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④ Enhancing GDP expenditure on health (NHP- 2.5%)

⑤ Inter-country collaboration on diagonosis & treatment.

⑥ Resolving issues with Intellectual Property Rights to enhance availability of generic drugs.

National Policy of Rare diseases aims to reduce their overall burden and proactive treatment for all.

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19. हिंद-प्रशांत क्षेत्र में यथार्थवादी और प्रभावी सहयोग के लिए, इस क्षेत्र से संबंधित विभिन्न देशों के प्रमुख हितों को स्वीकार करने और उनकी पहचान करने की आवश्यकता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

For realistic and effective collaborations to take place in the Indo-Pacific region, there is a need to acknowledge and recognize the underlining intention of the various countries with stakes in the region. Discuss. (Answer in 250 words) 15

Indo-Pacific region has emerged as a new theatre of interest with increasing assertion of china and rising interest of US in the region.

Rising interests and underlying intentions –

① China's expansion –
- ↳ String of Pearls
- ↳ 9 dash line
- ↳ dispute over territorial waters –
  - ↳ (ex) Scarborough Shoal, Spratley Island.
- ↳ wants to monopolise the region

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and 'Unipolar Asia.'

② USA
- ① Thucydides trap – counter china.
- ② Counter Russia – sanctions due to Russia-Ukrain war.
- ③ Policy of Pivot to Asia.
- ④ Nuclearisation – AUKUS alliance
- ⑤ NATO+5 status asked to India.

③ European Union –
- ① Balancing ties with China & India.
- ② Enhancing cooperation & trade.

④ Australia
- ① acquisition of nuclear powered submarines.
- ② Geostrategic significance in the region.

⑤ Russia –
- ① Rising China-Russia axis
- ② Strategic interests.

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Recognising underlying intention is important —

1. to prevent arms race
2. Stability and harmony of region.
3. India's vision for SAGAR - security & growth for all.
4. free and open Indo-Pacific

Recent incident of organisation of Indian Ocean forum by China without involving India showcase the vested interests.

India should strategically balance both western powers and China (neighbour) to maximise India's interest & security in region

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Don't write anything this margin
(इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

20. भारत और उसके पड़ोसियों के बीच एक महत्वपूर्ण संपर्क स्थल के रूप में स्थापित होने से पहले, भारत को अपने पूर्वोत्तर क्षेत्र की आंतरिक और बाह्य दोनों तरह की अंतर्निहित चुनौतियों का समाधान करने की आवश्यकता है। टिप्पणी कीजिए।

There is a need to address the underlying challenges, both internal and external, in the North-Eastern region of India before it can serve as a pivotal connecting space between India and its neighbours. Comment. (Answer in 250 words) 15

North-Eastern region share almost 99% border ~~with~~ international highlighting its pivotal role in neighbourhood first policy.

Pivotal role in connecting space between India & neighbour

1. Connectivity to ASEAN Countries
2. India - Myanmar Thailand bilateral Highway.
3. International border with China - Arunachal Pradesh
4. Maitri Setu bridge with Bangladesh.
5. BBIN motor vehicle corridor

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However, challenges of North-East hinder connectivity.

① Internal challenges

- ① Internal tensions –
  - e.g. Manipur violence,
- ② Protection of indigenous rights of tribes
  - e.g. voice against Sanskritisation & demand for separate land.
- ③ Integration with mainland India
  - e.g. People Libration Army, Nagalim demand.

② External challenges

- ① Illegal immigration – Chakma, Hajongs, Rohingya
- ② Drug & Human trafficking
  - Proximity to golden triangle
- ③ Role of external state & non-state actors

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Need to address by way of—

Internal	External
① Peace dialogues- (e.g.) Bodo peace process.	① Engagement with neighbour - Gujral doctrine.
② Development- (e.g.) PM DevINE.	② ASEAN centrality
③ Strengthening security agencies.	③ Look East Policy.
④ Resolving controversies over AFSPA	④ Land Boundary agreement (Bangladesh)
	⑤ Prevent illegal immigration & drug trafficking

Thus multipronged approach to strengthen domestic capability and tackling challenges alongside achieving foreign policy objectives in neighbourhood is need of hour.

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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 2090)

Name of Candidate	Komal Punia		
Medium Eng./Hindi	English	Registration Number	1026090
Center	Online	Date	22/08/2023

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
2	10	
3	10	
4	10	
5	10	
6	10	
7	10	
8	10	
9	10	
10	10	
11	15	
12	15	
13	15	
14	15	
15	15	
16	15	
17	15	
18	15	
19	15	
20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न–पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **HINDI & ENGLISH.**
   इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं **हिन्दी और अंग्रेजी** में छपे हैं।
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
   सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
   प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
   प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न–सह–उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
   प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

Is student recommended for One-to-One mentoring?

Recommended	Strongly Recommended

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EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

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1. पृथक्करणीयता का सिद्धांत क्या है? प्रासंगिक न्यायिक निर्णयों की सहायता से विवेचना कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10

What is the Doctrine of Severability? Discuss with the help of relevant judicial decisions. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Doctrine of Severability is a judicial doctrine in order to examine the unconstitutionality of law.

According to it, a legislation's only that part is unconstitutional which is in conflict with constitutional principles.

Applicability

① While examining 3 lists
- Union
- State
- concurrent

→ only repugnant part is held unconstitutional.

② Saves entire legislation from unconstitutionality [eg] Rajendra

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Shah vs Union of India – struck down Part IXA on state cooperatives while applicable on multi-state cooperatives.

Benefits of doctrine of severability

① checks on judicial overreach
↳ can't struct down entire law.

② establish separation of power
↳ executive & legislative have to conform to constitutional ideals.

However, in NJAC case, judiciary struck down entire legislation was seen as bypassing of this doctrine.

Thus, in order to ensure checks & balance, this doctrine was propounded.

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2. भारत में संवैधानिक शासन को संरक्षित करने के लिए राज्यपाल के पद को रूपांतरित करने की आवश्यकता है। राज्यपाल के पद से जुड़े हालिया विवादों के आलोक में विवेचना कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10

The office of Governor needs to be transformed to preserve constitutional governance in India. Discuss in the light of recent controversies surrounding the Governors' office. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Governor is both executed head of state as well as nominee of union government.

this dual responsibility often result in [various challenges]

① Conflict with elected ministry
e.g. [West Bengal] CM vs current V. President Jagdeep Dhankar.

② Delays in passing state Bills (Art 200) misuse
e.g. [Tamil Nadu Governor]

③ Reserving bills for President assent without time frame (Art 201)

In light of above challenges, office of governor needs to be

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transformed to preserve constitutional governance.

Required changes

① Time frame for assent - need to amend Art 200 and 201 -
↳ 6 month time frame.

② Appointment through collegium -
↳ CM, PM and other ministers

③ fixed tenure of 5 years
(Punchi Commission recommendation)

④ Governor should be - eminent in some walk of life and apolitical personality (Sarkaria)

The tenets of cooperative federalism can be strengthened by transforming this office.

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3. "वाक् एवं अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता की आड़ में लोक व्यवस्था में व्यवधान उत्पन्न करने या हिंसा भड़काने की अनुमति नहीं दी जा सकती।" हेट स्पीच के संदर्भ में उच्चतम न्यायालय के हालिया निर्णय की सहायता से विवेचना कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10

"Disturbing public order or inciting violence cannot be allowed under the garb of the freedom of speech and expression." Discuss with help of the recent Supreme Court judgment on hate speech. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Hate speech refers to toxic or violent words aiming to incite violence or disturbing public order.

Hate Speach vs freedom of speech and expression (FOSE) -

① Reasonable restrictions on FOSE under Art 19(2).

② Hate speech threatens unity and security of India
e.g. Dharam Sansad incident Haridwar.

③ can culminate into riots, violence
e.g. Nuh violence, Delhi riots

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However, challenges with respect to hate speech are -

1. Not clearly defined in any legislation.
2. fine line between hate speech and FOSE
   ↳ e.g. detention in name of hate speech to curb FOSE
3. hate speech's linkage with defamation and contempt.

Way forward

1. Supreme Court asked centre to frame law with respect to hate speech.
2. Amending IPC sections to include punishment against.

Curbing hate speech without impacting FOSE makes a democracy effective.

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4. भारत में लोकतंत्र के प्रभावी काम-काज के लिए विपक्ष के नेता (LoP) की भूमिका पर चर्चा कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10

Discuss the role of the Leader of the Opposition (LoP) for the effective functioning of democracy in India. (Answer in 150 words) 10

Leader of opposition (LOP) is the leader of largest opposition party in India and is given weightage as 'alternative PM' by many.

Role of LoP

1. Questioning and debating government policies.
2. Ensuring constitutional ideals are respected and not bypassed.
3. formation of government if ruling party fails - hung assembly etc
4. ensures checks and balance on functioning of executive.
5. voice people's interest in Parliament.

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Thus, LoP is an important post to ensure substantive democracy.

However, in recent times there are

Challenges

1. Ineffective functioning of LoP.
2. creation of controversies - hampering democracy.
3. Weakened opposition may lead to tyranny of executive.
4. popularising political issues rather than substantive ones.

Way forward

1. Constructive vote of confidendence in place of Non-confidence Motion
2. playing effective role as Britain.

Proper functioning of LoP is essential for democracy to establish truely.

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5. लोक सेवकों द्वारा कुशल सार्वजनिक सेवा वितरण सुनिश्चित करने और भारत में परिवर्तन लाने के लिए उभरती हुई प्रौद्योगिकियों का उपयोग किन विभिन्न तरीकों से किया जा सकता है? (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10

What are the various ways in which emerging technologies can be utilised by civil servants in ensuring efficient public service delivery and affecting change in India? (Answer in 150 words) 10

Emerging technologies like ICT, Artificial Intelligence, Blockchain etc provides a way for eradicating the problems that are ailing civil services.

Emerging technology in civil services

① Digitalisation for enhancing accountability and transparency

- Direct Benefit transfer.
- e-musterrolls in MGNREGA
- Bhoomi - Land records (Karnataka)

② Reaching last mile - inclusive development

- ① e-education. MOOC, Swayam
- ② Telemedicine - eSanjeevani OPD

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(3) Reducing corruption and red tapism
- (a) RTI Act 2005
- online portals for whistleblowing

(4) Better feedback and grievance redressal
- Lokwani (UP) - GRM
- BHASHINI - AI language translation.
- e-Kranti, Lokmitras (common service centres)

However there are challenges
- (1) Digital divide → only 20% Indians able to use internet (ITU)
- (2) Data privacy → prone to misuse
- (3) resistance to change & status quoist nature.

Way forward
- (1) Training and capacity building (iGOT) Mission Karmayogi.
- (2) simple technologies.

In Amrit Kaal, a reformed civil service with ~~technology~~ tech can lead to 'Developed India'.

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6. आपके अनुसार, प्रधान मंत्री कौशल विकास योजना भारत में कौशल विकास और रोजगार को बढ़ावा देने में किस सीमा तक सफल रही है? (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) [PMKVY] 10

To what extent, in your opinion, has the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana been successful in promoting skill development and employment in India? (Answer in 150 words) 10

PMKVY one of largest skill development scheme aiming to bridge skill gap and effectively utilise demographic divident.

Success of PMKVY

① In promoting skill development –
- ① trained youths
- ② apprentiseship scheme of informal workers
- ③ free training and skill education.

② Promoting employment –
- ① Improved employibility (currently only 45% students

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from HEIs are employeable)

② provided industry-academia linkage - internship opportunities.

Effectiveness of PMKVY

① Skill development did not translated into employment

② lack of ICT related skills - (e.g.) computer training etc.

③ lack of rural reach.

④ Ineffective utilisation of funds.

Way forward

① Convergence of schemes like Start up India with PMKVY.

② Skills suited to need of Industrial Revolution 4.0.

PMKVY has potential of reaping benefits of Amrit Peedhi.

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7. भारत की भूमि प्रबंधन प्रणाली में पर्याप्त लाभ उत्पन्न करने में भू-आधार परियोजना की क्षमता का परीक्षण कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10

Examine the potential of the Bhu-Aadhaar project in bringing significant benefits to India's land management system. (Answer in 150 words) 10

India with population of 18% and 2.4% land need robust land management systems.

In this line, Bhu-Aadhar project has immense potential –

① Linking land parcel with Aadhar

② Real time digital information regarding land registration.

③ Resolves ownership issues

→ Bhu-Aadhar will help in evidence based policy as –

↳ Unique Land Parcel Identification Number.

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↳ Step towards modernisation of land records (by Aadhar linking)

↳ effective convergence with policies

- Soil Health Card – soil fertility
- PM Awas Yojana ↳ housing for all
- MGNREGA, PM Gram Sadak Yojana.

Despite significant benefits, project has to go through various challenges of — ① fudging of Aadhar data
② Digital illeracy among vast population.

Barring challenges, Bhu-Aadhar yojana will usher robust land management system. In this, schemes like Bhoomi (Karnataka) can guide the way ahead.

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8. भारत में बाल श्रम की उपस्थिति के विभिन्न निर्धारकों पर चर्चा कीजिए। देश में बाल श्रम की समस्या से निपटने के लिए क्या उपाय किए जा सकते हैं? (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10

Discuss the different determinants of the occurrence of child labour in India. What measures can be taken to tackle the issue of child labour in the country? (Answer in 150 words) 10

As per census 2011, there are 33 million child labourers in India.

Determinants

① Issue of poverty leading to economic compulsion.

② Child labour laws and their effective implementation.

e.g. Prevention of child labour act

③ lack of education and skill, vocational training.

④ Relatively lower wages of child workers

⑤ Demands of many industries –

e.g. Matchstick industry, glass industry

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Measures taken

① Constitutional safeguards - Art 23, 24 - prohibit child labour.

② Prevention of child labour Act

below 14 years - no labour

14-18 - in non-hazardous industries.

Further measures required

① Rehabilitation of existing child labourers.

② Education provision (Art 21A)

③ State - NGO concerted efforts - eg. Bachapan Bachao Andolan (Kailash Satyarthi)

④ effective implementation of ICDS, POSHAN 2.0.

Children are leaders of tommorow. Curbing child labour will lead to their full fledged development.

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9. हाल के घटनाक्रमों से ज्ञात होता है कि कुछ बाधाओं के बावजूद, भारत-भूटान संबंधों में अभी भी निरंतरता बनी हुई है। चर्चा कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10

Despite certain hiccups, recent developments suggest that continuity still looms large in the Indo-Bhutan relationship. Discuss. (Answer in 150 words) 10

India-Bhutan relationship is based on historic ties of friendship treaty 1949.

Certain hiccups

① Bhutan's disagreement with BBIN motor vehicle agreement.

② China axis - Bhutan sandwiched between India & China.

③ Large trade imbalance and big brother attitude.

Continuity in relationships

① Mangdechhu hydropower project - 720 MW project - hallmark of strengthening ties.

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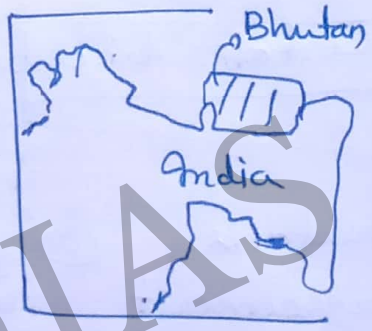
② Unity against china –
↳ demonstrated in Doklam standoff.

③ Cultural linkages
- Buddhism history
- Values like sustainability Vaisudhaiva kutumbkam

④ Connectivity through India – Bhutan – no maritime connection.



Importance for India

① Strategic location – connectivity to North-East [Siliguri Corridor]

② Can learn concepts like Gross National Happiness from Bhutan.

③ Digital market – taking RuPay & UPI to Bhutan.

India-Bhutan partnership is embedded in cultural ethos and historic ties.

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10. महत्वपूर्ण सूचना अवसंरचना एक वैश्विक सुविधा (ग्लोबल गुड) बन गई है जिसकी सुरक्षा के लिए वैश्विक मानदंडों की आवश्यकता है। महत्वपूर्ण सूचना अवसंरचना की सुरक्षा के लिए G20 क्या भूमिका निभा सकता है? (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10

Critical Information Infrastructure has become a global good that requires global norms for its safeguard. What role can the G20 play to safeguard Critical Information Infrastructure? (Answer in 150 words) 10

As per Information Technology Act 2000, Critical Information Infrastructure (CII) is set of computer sources, and power network, destruction of which have debilitating impact on national security.

CII as global good

1. Globalised world – Interconnected communicat^n
   e.g. Satellites.
2. Deeply linked cyberspace
   e.g. Google, cloud etc.
3. Airspace – airlines – intercontinental coverage.
   e.g. Air India

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Due to interlinkages, safeguarding requires global norms –

Role of G20

① Safeguarding digital infrastructure
↳ evolving regulatory framework like Europe's GDPR, PDP Act (India)

② Ensuring smooth semiconductor supply chain – currently monopolised by US, China & Taiwan.

③ need for a comprehensive CII protection mechanism agreed by all.

In age of Industrial Revolution, CII has become extremely important in world development. Its protection is need of hour with G20 as forebearer.

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11. विधायिका और न्यायपालिका के बीच टकराव की परिणति केशवानंद भारती वाद में 'आधारभूत संरचना' के सिद्धांत रूप में हुई। विवेचना कीजिए। संविधान में संशोधन करने की संसद की शक्ति को सीमित करने में इस वाद का क्या महत्व है? (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15

The tussle between the legislature and judiciary culminated in the 'basic structure' doctrine in the Kesavananda Bharati case. Discuss. What is the significance of the case in limiting the power of the Parliament to amend the Constitution? (Answer in 250 words) 15

Basic structure doctrine as propounded in Keshavananda Bharati case 1973 is a judicial invention of examining constitutional validity of legislative act subject to 'basic structure' of constitution.

Evolution

① Golaknath case – S.C. withheld narrow interpretation of Legislative's constituent power.

↓

② 24th Constitutional amendment Act –
↳ unlimited amending powers to parliament.

↓

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③ Keshavanand Bharati Case –
↳ Basic structure doctrine.
↳ evolving and dynamic concept.

Significance in limiting power of Parliament

① establish supremacy of constitution
② upholds concept of limited government
③ Judicial check against arbitrary legislation
(eg) Minerva Mills case
④ preserving constitutional morality and constitutionalism.
⑤ Establish separation of power
⑥ Upholding Rule of law
(eg) Maneka Gandhi Case – ruled protection of life & personal liberty.

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However there are challenges

① Not clearly defined.

Not in any substantial democracy of world.

prone to misuse by judiciary
e.g. NJAC case

Hinders legislative power of elected government.

These challenges require —

① a substantive definition of basic structure.

② Mechanism to prevent judicial misuse.

Doctrine of basic structure has expanded constitutionalism and evolved constitutional morality as reflected in Navtej-Singh Johar case.

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12. नगर निगमों की सीमित राजस्व सृजन क्षमता के कारण राज्यों के करों और अनुदानों पर उनकी निर्भरता बढ़ गई है। इस प्रवृत्ति से जुड़े हुए मुद्दे क्या हैं? भारत में नगर निगमों की वित्तीय स्थिति में सुधार के लिए किन उपायों की आवश्यकता है? (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15

The limited revenue generation capacity of municipal corporations has increased their dependence on taxes and grants from the states. What are the issues associated with this trend? What measures are required to improve the finances of the municipal corporations in India? (Answer in 250 words) 15

As per RBI report, municipal finances has remain stagnant since independence ailing urban development.

limited municipal revenue

① lowest property tax collection (among BRKS)

low professional tax (₹2500)

lack of capital market exposure.

This leads to dependency on states for grants & taxes. Challenges associated with this.

↳ ① tied grants - lack of financial freedom

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② Not suited to demands of municipality.

③ hinders growth and innovative solutions.

④ Politisation due to financial dependency.

⑤ Increase wastage of funds on unnecessary & more popular schemes.

⑥ Lack of credit & finance hinders urban development

- Issues of slums
- Mobility challenge
- Sanitation & cleanliness.

Measures required

① Municipality Bonds - capital market exposure (RBI)

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② Constitution of special purpose vehicle for deficit financing & fund raising (e.g. China)

③ Inflation indexing profession tax.

④ Reducing state control.

⑤ Rationalising property tax.

⑥ Priority sector lending (PSL) to municipal corporations.

⑦ Associating CSR funds to municipal development.

These steps will ensure financial independent municipal corporation effectively contributing to urban development. (SDG-11)

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13. "संविधान का उद्देश्य सुधार लाने के लिए समाज को रूपांतरित करना है और यह उद्देश्य रूपांतरणकारी संविधानवाद का मूल स्तंभ है।" हालिया न्यायिक निर्णयों की सहायता से विवेचना कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15

"The purpose of having a Constitution is to transform the society for the better and this objective is the fundamental pillar of transformative constitutionalism." Discuss with the help of recent case laws. (Answer in 250 words) 15

Constitution is a set of rules and regulations established by founding fathers. It is the fundamental law of land.

Purpose of constitution: transformation of society.

1. Reforms outdated practices
   e.g. Art 15, 16 - discrimination prohibited.
2. Evolving needs of society
   e.g. Constitutional morality in Navtej Singh Johar case - decriminalised homosexuality.

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↳ ③ evolution of rights –

eg. Right to marry under Art 21.
Right to remain silent (Art 19(1))

Thus transforming society is fundamental pillar of TRANSFORMATIVE CONSTITUTIONALISM as –

↳ Transformative constitutionalism is about transforming societal ideals and norms to meet need of modern society.

It is reflected in recent supreme courts judgement like –

① Anoop Barnwal vs UoI 2023
↳ S.C. set up collegium

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system for selection of Election Commissioners to fill perceived legislative gap.

② Common cause vs Union of India
↳ expounded concept of living will.

③ Decriminalisation of adultary
↳ Joseph shine case

These case laws are in line with spirit of transformative constitutionalism.
↓
It is a feature of supremacy of constitutional values and suits to needs of modern societies.

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14. भारत जैसे समाज में व्यक्तिगत स्वतंत्रता और लोकतांत्रिक शासन को बढ़ावा देने में 'विधि के शासन की संस्कृति' कैसे योगदान दे सकती है? ऐसी संस्कृति को बढ़ावा देने में क्या चुनौतियां विद्यमान हैं? (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15

How can a 'rule of law culture' contribute towards promoting individual liberty and democratic governance in a society like India? What are the challenges in fostering such a culture? (Answer in 250 words) 15

'Rule of law' culture refers to predominance of legal spirit and respect for law or rule of men.

Rule of law culture in India

- ① Fundamental Rights – Art 14-32
  - Art 14 – Equality before law and equal protection of law.
- Supremacy of constitution
- Judiciary as safeguard
  - Separation of power and checks and Balance.

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Rule of law promoting individual liberty –

① protection against arbitrary executive action (Art 32 & 13)

② prohibit arbitrary legislation –
- Basic structure
- Concept of limited government
- Struck down 97th Constitutional Amendment Act.

③ freedom of speech & expression and right to life as fundamental rights

Promoting democratic governance

① free and fair elections (Art 324)

② Right to universal adult suffrage (Art 326)

③ Ideals of democracy – liberty,

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freedom, fraternity, equality.

However there are challenges –

1. Sedition (Section 124A) – curbing dissent – safety valve of democracy.
2. Preventive detention – arbitrary and malafied.
3. Bypassing legitimate procedure
   - frequent ordinance promulgation
   - misuse of Art-200, 201 by governor.

Way ahead

1. Awareness about Rule of Law.

e.g. Constitutional literacy campaign in Kerala will ensure people as safeguards of democracy.

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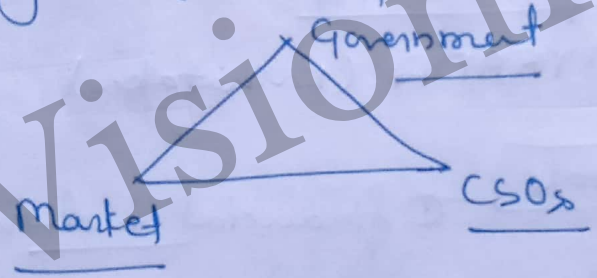
15. नागरिक समाज संगठन (CSOs) न केवल धर्मार्थ कार्यों में लगे हुए हैं, बल्कि न्यायसंगत, शांतिपूर्ण, मानवीय और संधारणीय भविष्य के निर्माण के लिए राजनीतिक प्रक्रियाओं में भी शामिल हैं। उदाहरण सहित चर्चा कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) are not just engaged in charitable work but also involved in political processes for building a just, peaceful, humane, and sustainable future. Discuss with examples. (Answer in 250 words) 15

CSOs are informal, voluntary organisations of non-state actors contributing significantly to welfare of people.

CSOs are one of important players of developmental process.



Role and functioning of CSOs

① Political empowerment
↳ advocacy for rights
(BMMA - triple talaq)

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↳ spread legal awareness — Association for democratic reforms (ADR)

② Social role

↳ i) eradicating derogatory practices.

↳ rehabilitation of victims

↳ e.g. Chaya foundation (Acid attack)

↳ women empowerment

e.g. MYRADA (Karnataka)

③ Economic role — ① financial inclusion

↳ breaking vicious cycle of poverty e.g. Society for Integrated development of Himalayas — promoting inclusive development.

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④ Miscellaneous
- gap filling
- reaching last mile.

However there are challenges

① foreign funding misuse

lack of transparency - (only 10% file audit - CBI)

hinder development - Green Peace (As per IB)

Way forward
- Social Stock exchange.
- ① RTI applicability - (PUCL vs UOI case)
- ② Better state - market - CSO linkage.
- ③ Independent funding mechanisms.

In this National Policy on Voluntary Organisations 2007 can guide for their effective contribution in nation building

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16. हालांकि स्वयं सहायता समूहों (SHGs) ने ग्रामीण विकास और महिला सशक्तिकरण में योगदान दिया है, लेकिन उनका असमान भौगोलिक प्रभाव और ऋण चूक (लोन डिफ़ॉल्ट) की बढ़ती घटनाएं ऐसी गंभीर चुनौतियां हैं, जिनके समाधान की आवश्यकता है। विवेचना कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15

Self-help groups (SHGs) have contributed towards rural development and women empowerment, but their uneven geographical impact and rising loan defaults are serious challenges that need to be addressed. Discuss. (Answer in 250 words) 15

SHGs are a group of women pooling their finances to provide microfinance facilities to micro-entrepreneurs in rural areas.

Contribution in rural development

① provide credit facilities to break vicious cycle of poverty.

② financial inclusion –

Bank → (loans) SHG → (loans) micro-entrepreneur

③ help small cottage industries.

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Contribution in women empowerment

① financial literacy to women
(e.g) Women as Bank Correspondent.

② Self sufficiency in finance

③ Improve societal awareness and uplift respect for women.

However, there are challenges like –

① Uneven geographical impact

- >40% SHGs are in southern states due to industrialisat
- North – agriculture dominated – low penetration of SHGs.
- Untouched isolated areas e.g. Tribal

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② Rising loan defaults

- i) charge high interest rates
- inability to pay back of microentrepreneurs.
- Rising NPAs of banks due to priority sector lending (PSL).

Way forward

① Effective implementation of government schemes — DAY NRLM
- SHGs - Bank Linkage program

② Training with technology — computing knowledge.

Budget 2023-24 recognised important role of 81 Lakh SHGs in rural development and women empowerment.

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17. क्या आप इस विचार से सहमत हैं कि भारत की स्कूली शिक्षा प्रणाली में गहरी जड़ें जमा चुकी समस्याओं को केवल डिजिटल रूपांतरण से हल नहीं किया जा सकता है? (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15

Do you agree with the view that the deep-rooted problems in India's school education system cannot be solved by digital transformation alone? (Answer in 250 words) 15

As per census 2011, literacy rates in India - men (80.9%), women (64.63%) but still as ASER report highlighted poor learning outcomes among children.

This shows deep-rooted problems in education system —

1. lack of trained teachers
2. lack of vocational education [India - 5% while South Korea - 95% - ASER]
3. poor employability — (only 45% students from Higher Education Institutions)

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Potential of digital solutions

1. Teachers training (e.g.) NISHTHA and DIKSHA portal.
2. Improving reach of education
   ↳ (e.g.) to inaccessible areas with online classes.
3. Affordability - MOOC - SWAYAM - free online best quality education.
4. Child progress tracking -
   ↳ (e.g.) UDISE +
5. Integrated and holistic - online skill training (Newton school)

However, they alone are not sufficient as there are many challenges -

1. Digital divide across genders

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geographies and age.

② Digital accessibility - As per ITU only 20% Indians able to use internet.

③ Not suited for all age groups -
↳ Early childhood care & education (ECCE) need offline care.

Way ahead
① Hybrid education -
↳ offline - where needed
↳ online - where feasible.
② need a regulatory policy for edtech startups

National Education Policy 2020 envisages a mix of online & offline education to shape India into Knowledge Superpower.

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18. भारत में कमजोर वर्गों के लिए कल्याणकारी योजनाओं की प्रभावशीलता और पारदर्शिता पर प्रत्यक्ष लाभ अंतरण (DBT) के प्रभाव का परीक्षण कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15

Examine the impact of Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) on the effectiveness and transparency of welfare schemes for the vulnerable sections in India. (Answer in 250 words) 15

Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) refers to directly transfering monetary benefits into beneficiaries' account.

Benefits of DBT

1. Reduced leakages - better transmission of subsidy.
   (eg. LPG DBT subsidy.
2. Reduced economic cost in PDS.
   transportation storage.
3. Reduced corruption and delays.
4. Enhance transparency due to digital trail.
5. Choice to beneficiary regarding money

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Increased effectiveness

- timely transmission
- Beneficiary gets to buy from better quality.
- checks black marketing

Increased transparency

- elimination of middle men - Quota distributer etc
- direct transfer to bank account.
- digitalisat" leads to transparency

Still, **Challenges** persists

1. DBT is not inflation indexed.
2. lack of autonomy of women as males get to use the money.

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③ Digital illiteracy and scepticism.

Way forward

① Constitution of DBT Correspondent similar to Bank Correspondant to help people accessing DBT.

② Tokenisation of welfare measures.

③ Inflation-indexing DBT to shield market vulnerabilities.

These measures will ensure effectiveness of welfare measures to truely establish aim of welfare state (DPSP).

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19. चीन-रूस के बीच गहरे होते रणनीतिक संबंधों को कुछ लोगों ने 'विश्व में सर्वाधिक महत्वपूर्ण अघोषित गठबंधन' के रूप में वर्णित किया है। यह गठबंधन भारत के राष्ट्रीय हित को कैसे प्रभावित कर सकता है? भारत को अपने हितों की रक्षा के लिए क्या रणनीति अपनानी चाहिए? (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15

The deepening China-Russia strategic relationship has been described by some as the 'most consequential undeclared alliance in the world.' How can this alliance impact India's national interest? What strategies should India adopt to protect her interests? (Answer in 250 words) 15

Russia-Ukraine war has polarised world strengthening china-Russia partnership at unprecedented level.

[Deepening relationships causes]

- Western sanctions on Russia.
- trade war between US & China.
- Common interests

- emergence of regional alliances like AUKUS, QUAD
- emerging Indo-pacific theatre.

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most consequential undeclared alliance –

① Russia (former superpower) & China (rising economically and militarily)

② Thucydides trap – USA fearing china's rise as well as sanctioning Russia –
↳ both found common interests.

③ changing world order with most impact on Indo-pacific.

④ China (semiconductor) plus Russia (military equipments) – both benefit each other.

Impact on India's national interest

① Border tensions with China.

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② changing orientation of historic ally Russia.

③ threat of China-Pak-Russia axis

④ Strategic dilemma between western sanctions and Russia.

Strategies → ① Strengthening ties with Russia –
e.g. Oil buying, Nostro & Vostro accounts.

② Strategic autonomy with respect to western pressure.

③ Mini-maxing (Shiv Shankar Menon)

India's efforts of BrahMos, S-400 deal, shows engagement with Russia. India should carefully walk this tight rope.

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20. भारत ने अपनी वैश्विक स्थिति और विदेशों में छवि को बेहतर बनाने के लिए सॉफ्ट पावर को अपनी विदेश नीति के एक महत्वपूर्ण स्तंभ के रूप में स्थापित कर लिया है। सरकार द्वारा की गई विभिन्न पहलों के साथ-साथ इस कथन की विवेचना कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15

India has placed soft power as an important pillar of its foreign policy to enhance its global standing and image abroad. Discuss the statement along with the initiatives taken by the government. (Answer in 250 words) 15

As per Joseph Nye, soft power is pursuing national interest through power of persuasion and attraction rather than coersion.

Soft power – important pillar of India's foreign policy –

- engaging with diaspora
- trust & goodwill at international fora.
- Democratic values – G20 theme
- cultural exchange (Eg) International Yoga Day.
- foreign policies of Neighbour first, SAGAR

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Initiatives taken

① Vaccine Maitri – to fight COVID

② Operation Dost – Turkey earthquake rescue.

Operation Ganga – Russia-Ukraine war impacted Indians.

③ development of Soft power matrix – to quantify the impact.

④ promotion of indigenous products –
↳ millets (International year of millets 2023)
↳ gifting Assamese Gamcha to Japanese PM.

⑤ promoting sports, bollywood etc.

⑥ Sri Lanka's help – line of credit

⑦ Cultural diplomacy cell in foreign ministry.

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challenges associated with use of soft power

① difficult to assess the impact.

② Intangible power and lack of instant results.

③ Western media - derogating India's image (e.g) Railway cartoon.

Way ahead

↳ ① Smart powers - judicious mix of both soft & hard.

② Strengthening domestic capabilities.

Effectiveness of soft power can be significantly enhanced by improving domestic capacity.

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